薫る花は凛と咲く 17

Kaoruhanawa Rintosaku

三香見サカ

SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

KAO-RUKO!

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL THIS TIME?!

YOU SHOULD GO TAKE A BATH FIRST. YOU MUST BE FREEZING RIGHT NOW.

YEAH...

WHAT ABOUT KOSUKE? IS HE OKAY?

HUH? AH, YEAH.

HE'S SLEEPING RIGHT NOW. HE SEEMED PRETTY EXHAUSTED AFTER EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED.

THAT SAID, HE HAS BEEN HELPING ME OUT A LOT MORE COMPARED TO LAST TIME.

I SEE.

HEY, DAD...?

YEAH?

I ACTUALLY...

I KNOW THAT...

NOW MIGHT NOT BE THE BEST TIME FOR THIS, BUT...

...BOUGHT SOME CAKE ON THE WAY BACK.

Patisserie

Chapter 126: Kaoruko's Father and Rintaro

SO IT WAS YOU...

...WHO HELPED HER, WASN'T IT?

...WHAT?

...I'M NOT EXACTLY PRIVY TO THE DETAILS MYSELF.

Ha hà ha!

...?!

THEN AGAIN...

AQUA WATER

KWUMP

...!

THEN, IF YOU WOULD...

Though, it'll be rather heavy from the looks of it.

I BELIEVE SO, YES...

THIS SHOULD PROBABLY BE ENOUGH JUICE FOR THE REST OF THE DAY...

Here you go.

Hup...!

...

IT SURE IS HEAVY ...!

I... I CAN HANDLE IT.

WILL YOU BE OKAY?

KAORUKO HAD THAT EXACT SAME REACTION BACK THEN.

YOU KNOW...

ANYWAY, BACK TO WHAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT...

PAR-DON?

Ha ha ha...

I DIDN'T MEAN IN A LITERAL SENSE, OF COURSE.

ALSO, DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD BUY SOME SNACKS FOR THEM? MAYBE THEY'LL ALREADY BE FULL OF ALL THE TAKOYAKI?

KNOWING THEM, THEY'LL BE ABLE TO FIT SOME MORE JUST FINE.

THEN IT'S DECIDED!

AQUA WATER

GRAPE SODA

YOU SEE...

NO MATTER HOW HEAVY THE BURDEN IS THAT SHE'S CARRYING...

...SHE ALWAYS DOES HER BEST TO NOT SHOW IT ON HER FACE.

NOT EVEN TO HER PARENTS, THAT IS.

Using 100% domestically grown potatoes
Lightly Salted
Potato Chips

I BELIEVE SHE FIRST COLLAPSED WHEN KAORUKO WAS IN HER THIRD YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL.

HER STAY IN THE HOSPITAL DRAGGED ON FOR MUCH LONGER THAN THE MOST RECENT ONE. CAUSING THE MOOD AT HOME TO TURN BLEAK AND DREADFUL.

YOU'VE PROBABLY BEEN TOLD ABOUT THIS ALREADY...

BUT THEIR MOTHER HAS ALWAYS BEEN RATHER PHYSICALLY FRAIL.

!

...THAT I NEVER...

IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, I CAN ONLY WISH...

...HAVE TO EXPE-RIENCE A TIME LIKE THAT EVER AGAIN.

Ha ha...

MUMBLE

ON THE NIGHT OF THAT VERY DAY, SHE TOLD ME ABOUT YOU.

BUT DURING THE DECEMBER OF KAORUKO'S FIRST YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL, HER MOTHER COLLAPSED ONCE MORE.

...

SHE CAME HOME WITH SOME CAKE, OF ALL THINGS.

APPARENTLY, SHE HAD STOPPED BY A PATISSERIE CALLED "PLAIN" TO TRY ONE OF THEIR CAKES...

...AND SINCE SHE ENJOYED IT SO MUCH, SHE DECIDED TO BUY SOME MORE TO GO.

...

WARM AND COMFORTING.

THE TASTE FELT SO...

...SINCE I HAD SOMETHING THIS DELICIOUS...

AND BECAUSE IT HAD BEEN A WHILE...

I COULDN'T CONTROL MYSELF...

...AND BROKE DOWN IN TEARS.

I STILL REMEMBER HOW ODD IT FELT TO SIT TOGETHER WITH HER...

BECAUSE WE HADN'T HAD MANY CHANCES TO DO SO AS OF LATE.

IN THE END, KAORUKO AND I SAT DOWN TOGETHER TO EAT THE CAKE SHE BOUGHT.

KOSUKE WAS SOUND ASLEEP AT THAT TIME, AFTER ALL.

"ONE OF THEIR EMPLOYEES CAME AND CHEERED ME UP."

!

AND SO, SHE TOLD ME...

AND AT THE SAME TIME, I COULDN'T HELP BUT WONDER. "WHY CAKE OF ALL THINGS?"

I'D IMAG-INE...

SHE MUST HAVE BEEN INCREDIBLY HAPPY ABOUT THAT.

IN FACT, I HAD NEVER SEEN HER TALK ON AND ON LIKE THAT BEFORE.

NOT TO MEN-TION...

I WAS FINALLY ALLOWED...

IT'S DELICIOUS, ISN'T IT?

I SAY WE GET SOME MORE OF THEIR CAKES...

ONCE MOM FEELS BETTER, YEAH?

...TO SEE HER...

...SMILE AGAIN FROM THE BOTTOM OF HER HEART.

KAORUKO WAS BURDENED BY A LOT.

I HAD ALWAYS KNOWN THAT, AT THAT TIME...

AFTER ALL, SHE ONLY EVER SHOWED ME THAT FABRICATED AND FORCED SMILE.

I FELT NOTHING BUT GRATITUDE TOWARD THAT EMPLOYEE.

THAT'S WHY, WHEN I LISTENED TO HER STORY...

BUT SEEING GENUINE SMILE ON HER FACE, I COULD FINALLY FEEL A BIT MORE AT EASE.

KNOWING THAT I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO HELP HER, DESPITE BEING HER PARENT, I FELT PATHETIC...

IMAGINE MY SHOCK WHEN HER MOTHER TOLD ME ABOUT THE TWO OF YOU.

AND NOW, THAT VERY EMPLOYEE HAS GONE ON TO DATE KAORUKO, TOO.

I SURE WAS SURPRISED WHEN I HEARD THAT THIS VERY EMPLOYEE IS ALSO IN HIGH SCHOOL.

WHAT I REALLY WANTED TO SAY IS...

WELL...

I GUESS I'M BEATING A BIT AROUND THE BUSH HERE.

BLUNT

THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE FOR MY DAUGHTER, TSUMUGI-KUN.

I HOPE THAT...

I CAN LEAVE KAORUKO IN YOUR CAPABLE HANDS.

HM?

IS THAT... ALL?

AH...

UM...

...

AND THE SCHOOL I ATTEND DOESN'T EXACTLY HAVE THE BEST IMAGE, TOO...

CONSID-ERING MY LOOKS...

IT'S JUST...

NO, ERM...

Ha ha ha...

WHAT? DID YOU THINK I'D GIVE YOU A STERN TALKING BECAUSE YOU'RE DATING MY DAUGHTER?

...WHO TOLD ME THAT NONE OF THIS MATTERED IN THE SLIGHTEST.

...IS THE PERSON WHO MADE THAT CAKE.

THE TSUMJGI-KUN I KNOW..

RA TH THA

AND I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERNS REGARDING YOUR SCHOOL AND THE RESULTING REPUTATION THAT GIVES YOU...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED FOR YOU TO CHOOSE YOUR CURRENT APPEARANCE

YET...

IT WAS KAORUKO-SAN'S MOTHER...

OF COURSE, I'M NOT TRYING TO SELL MYSELF SHORT.

THESE ARE SIMPLY THE TRUTH.

BUT...

SINCE I KNEW I'D BE TALKING WITH YOU EVENTUALLY...

...I JUST COULDN'T HELP BUT WORRY WHAT YOU MIGHT SAY.

HMMM ...

FREEZE

IN FACT, I WAS STILL TORN UNTIL THE LAST SECOND IF I SHOULD TAKE OFF MY EARRINGS FOR TODAY.

Ha ha...

I HAVE TO ADMIT, I WAS A BIT PERPLEXED WHEN I HEARD YOU HAD BLOND HAIR...

SEEMS LIKE I MADE THE RIGHT DECISION WHEN I STOPPED...!

BUT THAT DIDN'T REALLY BOTHER ME, EITHER.

...HAVE ABSOLUTE TRUST IN KAORUKO, AFTER ALL.

I DO...

...BUT EVEN AS JUST ANOTHER PERSON, I RESPECT HER VERY MUCH.

AND SURE, THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING BECAUSE SHE'S MY DAUGHTER...

WHILE CARRYING EVERYTHING THAT COMES ALONG.

...AND SHE FOLLOWS THE PATH SHE SET OUT FOR HERSELF...

SHE'S MADE ALL THE DECISIONS IN HER LIFE ON HER OWN...

...ALL THAT I NEED TO CARE ABOUT!

THAT REALLY IS...

...HAS FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOU.

AND NOW, THAT VERY KAORUKO...

AND THIS ALLOWS ME TO PUT MY TRUST IN YOU MYSELF.

KAORUKO TREASURES YOU THIS MUCH...

I'M NOT WORRIED IN THE SLIGHTEST.

...BELIEVE IN THEM, TOO!

THEN I'LL...

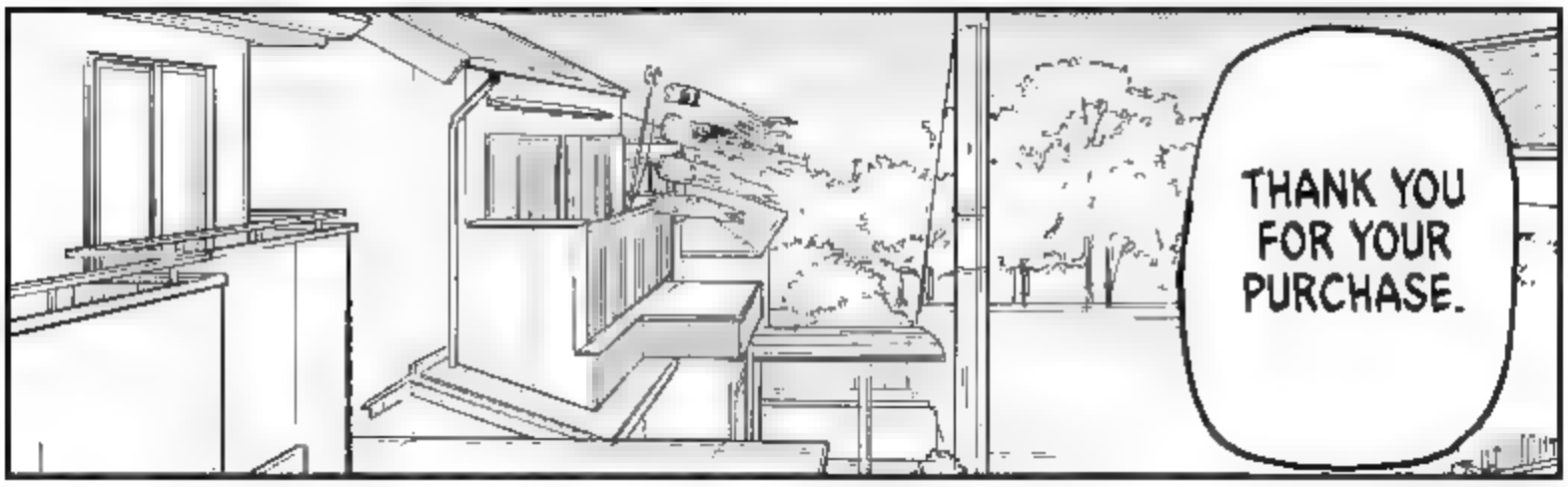
ARE SO IMPORTANT TO YOU.

AND IF THOSE PEOPLE

HAVE FAITH IN YOU, RINTARO-KUN.

I, FOR ONE

WE'RE NOT WORRIED AT ALL.


THANK YOU FOR YOUR PURCHASE.

GLAD TO HAVE YOU BACK, RINTARO-KUN.
TIME FOR ROUND TWO, RIGHT?

WE BOUGHT SOME SNACKS, TOO.
HEY, FOLKS. SORRY IT TOOK SO LONG.
YOU'RE BACK! WE'VE BEEN WAITING.
FOR REAL?! AWESOME. THANKS!

MHM?

WELL...

SOOO... WHAT DID YOU AND DAD TALK ABOUT?

FIDGET

...

...ALL THAT I NEED TO CARE ABOUT!

THAT REALLY IS...

...HAS FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOU.

AND NOW, THAT VERY KAORUKO...

I CAN LEAVE KAORUKO IN YOUR CAPABLE HANDS.

I HOPE THAT...

SILENT

THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE FOR MY DAUGHTER, TSUKUMI-KUN.

A WATER

SHE ALWAYS DOES HER BEST TO NOT SHOW IT ON HER FACE.

NO MATTER HOW HEAVY THE BURDEN IS THAT SHE'S CARRYING...

YOU SEE.

AND THIS ALLOWS ME TO PUT MY TRUST IN YOU MYSELF.

KAORUKO TREASURES YOU THIS MUCH...

I'M NOT WORRIED IN THE SLIGHTEST.

...HAVE ABSOLUTE TRUST IN KAORUKO. AFTER ALL.

I DO...

WHA-AAT?!

YOU'RE ACTING LIKE KYOKO-SAN RIGHT NOW!

She said the exact same thing before!

SERI-OUSLY?!

THAT'S A SECRET!

KTAK

SO? I TOLD YOU HE'S A SINCERE BOY.

TSU-MUGI-KUN, I MEAN.

!

OH, YEAH...

YOU WERE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT ABOUT HIM.

...

THAT'S... ALL THAT MATTERS.

BUT I WAS WONDERING ABOUT SOMETHING, TSUMUGI-KUN.

NO, NO! YOU JUST SA.D EARLIER THAT ..

YOU WERE UNSURE ABOUT IT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE. RIGHT?

GAH...! MAYBE I SHOULD'VE TAKEN THEM OFF AFTER ALL ?!

WHY DID YOU...

DECIDE TO WEAR YOUR EARRINGS TODAY?

...

THE THING IS.

WELL

...

AH

AND HE S CRAZY GOOD AT PLAYING GAMES!

HE'S SO NICE!

HE'S SUCH A KIND-HEARTED AND SINCERE KID

THAT'S RIGHT HER BOYFRIEND CAME TO VISIT TODAY

AND ONE OF THE R EMPLOY-EES

THE BOY WITH BLOND HAIR WAS WILLING TO LISTEN TO ME...

AND AFTER WATCHING AND TALKING TO HIM TODAY, THAT HAS NOT CHANGED.

I NEVER ONCE... HAD ANY NEGATIVE IMPRESSION OF HIM.

I GOT THESE...

...AS A PRESENT FROM KAORUKO-SAN, SO...

THERE REALLY IS...

...NOTHING ELSE THAT I NEED.

HOW DEARLY YOU THINK OF HER..

HOW MUCH YOU CARE FOR MY DAUGHTER

...IT'S PLAIN AS DAY TO ME.

..TSU-MUGI-KUN.

THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS...

CHEER

KWAM

FWEEP

NICE SHOT, RINTARO!

Chapter 127: The Final Sports Festival

BONK
!
SUP!
THAT LAST THREE-POINTER OF YOURS WAS CRAZY, DUDE!
AYE, THANKS.
Hup!
WHEN'S THE FINALS GONNA HAPPEN AGAIN?
SINCE WE GOT LUNCH BREAK FIRST, I THINK AROUND HALF PAST ONE?
ACTUALLY, I THINK THEIR DODGEBALL MATCH IS GONNA END SOON.
CHEER
TURN
YOU THINK THOSE GUYS'LL MAKE IT?
CHEER

WHAM

SHUP

...!

BAM

HECK YEAH!

CLASS 1 MOVES ON TO THE FINALS!

Sorry, you guys!

GAAAH, DANGIT!

MEANS THAT WE'LL GET TO PLAY A WHOLE LOT MORE AND THE BREAKS ARE SHORTER, TOO!

GOOD THING WE GET TO PARTICIPATE IN TWO TOURNAMENTS STARTING THIS YEAR.

That offensive was relentless...

WELP. NO SURPRISE THERE.

TSUKA-CHAAAN! DO WE GET A REWARD IF WE WIN THE TOURNAMENTS THIS YEARz!

(Thu) Sports Festival

- Dodgeball 22 People

Basketball 1 People

ALSO... WITH HOW THINGS ARE GOING, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TOTALLY DOABLEz!

WHAT ISz ?

Hmmm...

I'D BE A LOT MORE MOTIVATED IF THERE WAS ONE!

PLUS, WE WORKED REALLY HARD DURING THE LAST MIDTERMS SO THAT WE COULD JUST PARTICIPATE IN IT!

Agreed!

Yeah, yeah!

AGAIN WITH THAT...

YOU GUYS! WE ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO WIN THIS YEAR, YOU HEAR?!

YEAA-AAAAH!

DA DAM

And some ice cream as bonus.

ALL RIGHT... IF YOU MANAGE TO WIN BOTH TOURNAMENTS, THEN I'LL BUY ALL OF YOU TWO CANS OF JUICE!

WELL, WE DID END UP LOSING THE FINALS LAST YEAR. HE MUST BE DOUBLE MOTIVATED NOW.

I'M ALL FIRED UP NOW! LET'S DO THIS...!

MADE IT TO THE FINALS, RIGHT? GREAT WORK OUT THERE!

Peace, peace!

THROB

MY HAND'S KILLING ME...

AND WE'LL WIN THOSE, TOO.

OF COURSE.

YO, YOU GUYS!

!

HM? RINTARO?

YEAH? THEN LET'S GO...

Don't make me say it, dude!

WE WANTED TO WATCH YOUR GREAT DEEDS DURING YOUR MATCH WITH OUR VERY OWN EYES SO THAT WE COULD GO BACK TOGETHER.

LUNCH BREAK'S ALREADY STARTED.

AREN'T YOU GUYS GOING BACK TO THE CLASS-ROOM?

OH, MR. DILI-GENT.

WELL, I WOULDN'T WANT TO GET HURT, DUH.

AH, YEAH.

I'LL PUT IT BACK ON BEFORE THE NEXT MATCH.

PEU

PEU

ARE YOU SURE YOU SHOULD BE TAKING OFF THE TAPE?

I JUST DON'T WANT TO RISK RUINING...

THE SENSATION IN MY FINGER-TIPS.

IT'S ONE OF THE THINGS I NEED MORE THAN ANYTHING.

THAT'S VERY TRUE.

YOU'RE GOING TO BE A PÂTISSIER IN THE FUTURE, AFTER ALL.

MAN, NOW I'M HUNGRY FOR ANOTHER CAKE OF YOURS.

WE DEFINITELY HAVE TO BUY ONE SOME TIME.

...JUST LET ME KNOW AND I'LL MAKE ONE FOR YOU GUYS.

FOR REAL?!

KRK

OH MY, OH MY... IF IT ISN'T THE ESTEEMED GENTS FROM CLASS 2?

ARE YOU GUYS PREPARED TO GET YOUR ASSES WHOOPED BY US THIS TIME?

LOOK WHO'S TALKING NOW.

SEEING THE DEFEATED LOOK IN YOUR EYES AFTER WE CRUSH YOU AGAIN IS GONNA FEEL EVEN BETTER THAN HOLDING THE TROPHY.

CHATTER

...

AND IT'LL BE CLASS 1'S CHANCE AT REVENGE FOR LAST YEAR'S DEFEAT.

I'M GONNA PRACTICE SO HARD FOR NEXT YEAR!

DEFEAT CLASS 2!

UNLESS WE'RE NOT DOING BASEBA... NEXT YEAR

YOU'RE BACK ON YOUR FEET QUICK.

NAM

THE FINAL ROUND HASN'T STARTED AND THEY'RE ALREADY AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS.

CHATTER

CHATTER

Poor Saku-kun is getting mixed up in it, too.

CAN'T BLAME THEM. BOTH OF THE FINAL MATCHES IN EITHER SPORT WILL BE BETWEEN CLASS 1 AND 2.

YO, YORITA AND COMPANY.

I BET 100 YEN* ON YOU GUYS.

CLASS 3 PASSING BY.

HUH? THERE'S PEOPLE BETTING ON OUR MATCHES?

DUH! WE'RE BORED OVER HERE!

AND THE OTHER CLASSES ARE DOING IT, TOO!

WHAT A BUNCH OF LOAFERS...

*100 yen is approximately 1 USD.

SO BE IT! THE GODS MUST BE WATCHING OVER US RIGHT NOW!

EVER SINCE I SUFFERED THAT DEFEAT LAST YEAR... I'VE BEEN LIVING FOR THIS DAY!

STOP LYING.

CLASS 1 IS GOING TO TAKE HOME THE VICTORY TODAY!

CHATTER

WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE OURSELVES!

Let's do this!

WHAT A GREAT WAY TO USE UP YOUR ENERGY BEFORE THE MATCH.

I'M ALMOST JEALOUS HOW ENERGETIC THEY ARE...

!

TAT

YOU'RE BLOCKING THE HALLWAY FOR THE OTHER STUDENTS!

!

TEAR

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! THAT'S ENOUGH!

...BUT AT LEAST DON'T CAUSE TROUBLE TO THE OTHERS!

I DON'T MIND YOU BEING MOTIVATED FOR YOUR MATCHES...

MIWA CHIGUSA

HOMEROOM TEACHER OF CLASS 3-2

TEACHES MODERN LITERATURE

SO SHE CAME ALL THIS WAY JUST TO BREAK UP THEIR FIGHT, HUH?

No rest for the wicked even during lunch break

YOU BUNCH OF BLOCK-HEADS...

THAT'S NOT RIGHT, MIWA-CHAN! THOSE GUYS STARTED IT!

OH, THAT'S CHIGUSA-SENSEI...

JUST TO BREAK UP THEIR FIGHT, YEAH?

MIGHT'VE BEEN WRONG ABOUT THAT...

SMUG

OOOOH, TRUE!

PATRONIZING YOUR OPPONENT ALWAYS FEELS BEST AFTER YOU BEAT THEM TO A PULP!

I THINK HER INTER-VENTION ONLY MADE IT WORSE...

YES, BOSS!

YOU GUYS! AFTER WE'RE DONE WITH LUNCH, WE'RE OFF TO PRAC-TICE ONE LAST TIME, GO!

GO AHEAD AND TRY IF YOU CAN!

Ha ha ha!

BOO BOO

TALK ALL YOU WANT, BUT CLASS 1 IS GONNA WIN FOR SURE!!

Staff Office

...SHE'S A GREAT TEACHER WE CAN ALL APPRE-CIATE.

STILL, I THINK...

...

I'M NOT GONNA DO THAT, DUH!

EVERYBODY HAS DAYS WHERE THEY'RE NOT IN THE RIGHT MINDSET

I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO LECTURE ME.

FOR NOT PAYING ATTENTION.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHO TO ASK FOR THIS, SO YOU CAME IN CLUTCH!

I CAN TELL YOU'VE BEEN WORKING HARD.

BUT YOU'VE IMPROVED A LOT LATELY.

WELL, IT'D BE BAD IF THIS LED TO SCORING FAILING GRADES

GLOOM

ERM...IS SOMETHING THE MATTER, CHIGUSA-SENSEI?

?!

SIGH

IT DEFINITELY IS! BUT...WELL, DO YOU MIND IF I RANT FOR A MOMENT?

ISN'T THAT A GOOD THING?

IT'S JUST... THE GUYS FROM MY CLASS ARE A BIT... TOO MOTIVATED SOMETIMES.

No fair!

FOR THAT REASON, THEY RECENTLY STARTED COMPLAINING HOW THEY WANTED SOMETHING, TOO.

YOU SEE... EVEN THOUGH THEY WON LAST YEAR'S TOURNAMENT, I DIDN'T GIVE THEM ANY-THING AS A REWARD.

LAST YEAR, YOU PROMISED YOUR CLASS YOU'D TREAT THEM TO ICE CREAM IF THEY HAPPENED TO WIN, RIGHT?

...

AND SO...

THAT'S TSUKA-CHAN FOR YOU!

HOW NICE!

AND JUICE, TOO!

CLASS 1 WAS PROMISED THEY'D GET ICE CREAM AGAIN THIS YEAR!

THAT'S RIGHT. AND THAT PROMISE STILL STANDS THIS YEAR.

IF YOU WIN AT THE SPORTS FESTIVAL, I'LL TREAT YOU TO SOME ICE CREAM!

Crap

THAT'S ENOUGH GRUMBLING FROM YOU!

SLAM

WOOOOOO

DON'T THINK I'M GOING TO LET YOU GO HOME EMPTY-HANDED.

IF YOU ACTUALLY MANAGE TO WIN THIS YEAR, TOO, THEN WE CAN JUST SKIP CLASS ALTOGETHER AND HAVE A PIZZA PARTY TO CELEBRATE.

I COULDN'T HELP IT! I ALWAYS WANTED TO EAT PIZZA AT SCHOOL! IS THAT SO WEIRD?!

I THINK ORDERING PIZZA MIGHT HAVE BEEN A BIT EXCESSIVE, YES.

I CAN'T REALLY SAY MUCH ON THAT MATTER, BUT MAYBE YOU SHOULD KEEP THE BAR A BIT LOWER NEXT TIME, YES?

BECAUSE YOU NEVER ASKED...?

WHY COULDN'T YOU HAVE TOLD ME THAT SOONER?!

AT A BOYS' SCHOOL LIKE THIS, QUANTITY MATTERS OVER QUALITY, AFTER ALL.

WELL, WELL...

OH, I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT...!

GRANTED, IT'S GOING TO COST ME A LOT TO FILL ALL THEIR STOMACHS, BUT...

STILL I THINK IT'S FINE

WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO THAT PIZZA PARTY!

JUST WATCH US!

WE'RE DEFINITELY GONNA WIN THIS YEAR, TOO!

HEY, MIWA-CHAN!

...LIKE I WAS FINE WITH IT THIS WAY.

...IT MADE ME THINK...

ENOUGH ALREADY!

AND MAKE SURE TO ORDER US LARGE PIZZAS!

WHEN I SAW THE LOCKS IN THEIR EYES...

AH! TSUKADA-SENSEI AND CHIGUSA-SENSEI.

RATTLE

OH, I KNOW THAT FEELING ALL TOO WELL.

THEN I GUESS I SHOULD FINISH MY LUNCH AND GET BACK TO IT!

IT'S THE PIZZA EFFECT AT WORK.

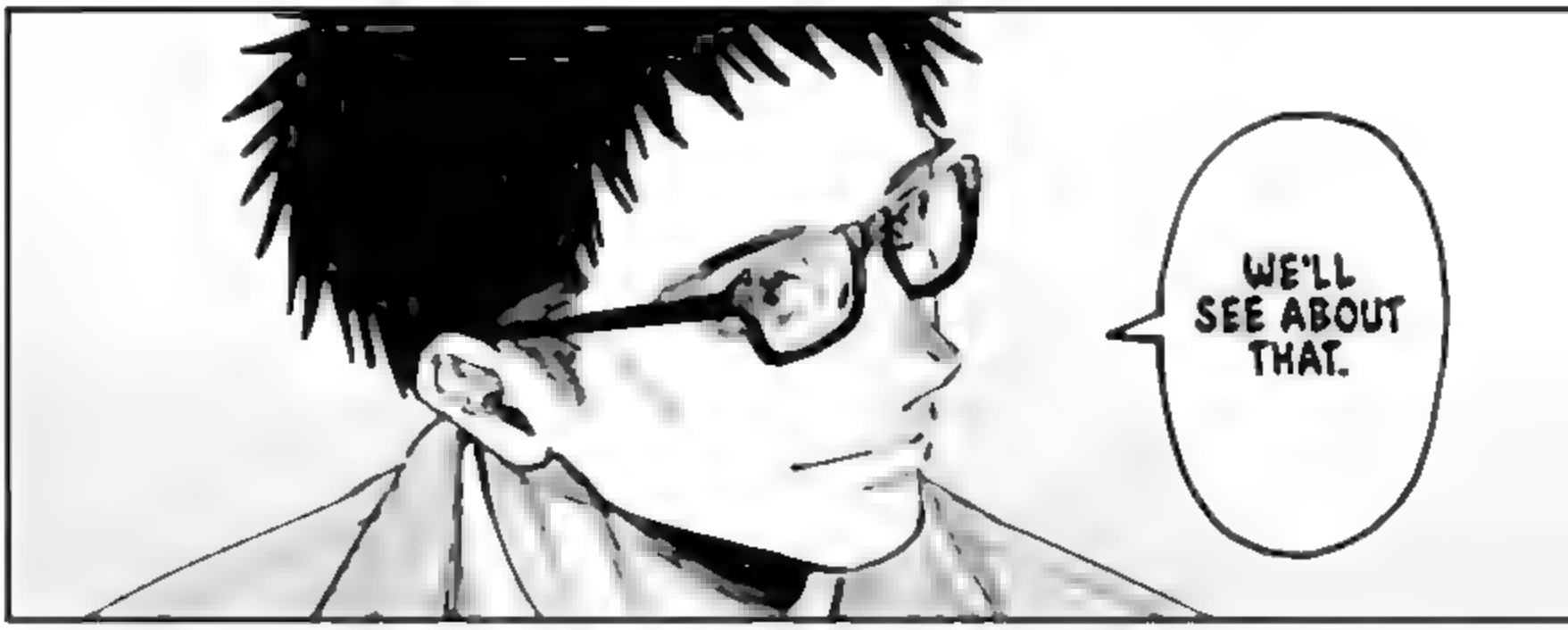
WAIT, ALREADY?!

I WAS JUST CHECKING HOW THINGS WERE GOING AT THE GYMNASIUM. BOTH CLASS 1 AND 2 ARE ALREADY WARMING UP.

THEY SURE ARE FIRED UP, HUH?

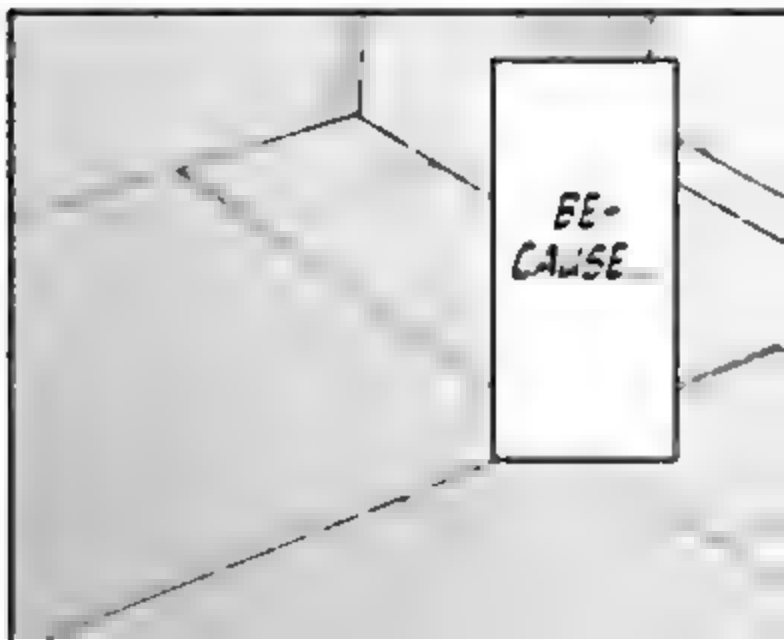
BECAUSE MY BOYS ARE NOT GOING TO LOSE!

I HOPE YOU'RE PREPARED, TSUKADA-SENSEI!


WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT.

WOOT
WOOT

...I'M FULLY PREPARED OVER HERE.
Fresh
Fresh
Fresh


BE-
CAUSE

GO WILD AND...

...ENJOY YOUR-SELVES.

Staff Office

SO, WAGURI-SAN...

1. What are your goal...
Attending university
2. Please state your university of choice and your preferred department, faculty.

	First Choice	Second Choice
University	Namineharu Women University	Metropolitan T University
Department		

I'M SORRY, I... HAVEN'T DECIDED YET.

YOU DIDN'T FILL OUT ANYTHING REGARDING YOUR DEPART-MENT OR FACULTY OF CHOICE.

LOOKING OVER THE QUESTIONNAIRE YOU HANDED IN BEFORE THE LAST MID-TERMS...

...BUT CONSIDERING YOUR ABILITY, I WOULD HOPE THAT YOU DECIDE ON SOMETHING WITH A HIGH DEVIATION VALUE.

GRANTED, I HAVE NO DOUBT YOU WOULD MANAGE JUST FINE NO MATTER WHAT YOUR FINAL DECISION MAY BE...

OF COURSE, IF YOU HAVE YET TO FIND A GOAL TO WORK TOWARD... THEN I HOPE YOU CONTINUE TO DEVOTE YOURSELF TO YOUR STUDIES NOW SO THAT IT WON'T BE TOO LATE THEN.

AND THIS WILL, IN TURN, MAKE IT EASIER TO ACHIEVE WHAT YOU EVENTUALLY SET OUT TO DO, OR EVEN WANT TO DO.

THE HIGHER YOU AIM NOW, THE MORE OPTIONS YOU WILL HAVE OPEN IN THE FUTURE, AFTER ALL.

...

...YES.

I UNDER-STAND...

I WOULD SUGGEST YOU TRY AND SOLIDIFY YOUR IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE BY THEN.

THERE WILL BE ANOTHER QUESTION-NAIRE COME JUNE.

...I AM ALWAYS WILLING TO OFFER ADVICE.

OF COURSE, IF YOU EVER NEED ANY HELP REGAR-DING THAT...

...UN-DER-STOOD.

THAT IS ALL. YOU CAN GO BACK TO YOUR CLASSROOM NOW.

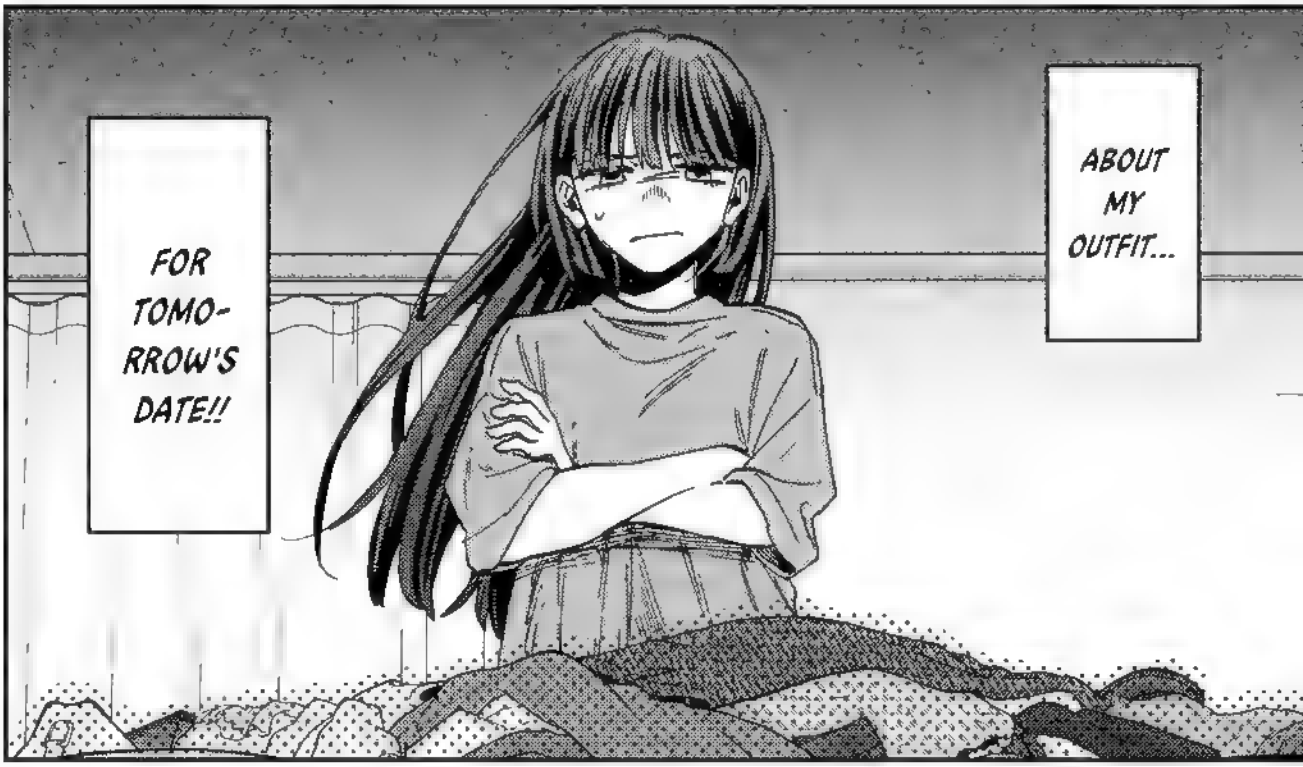
...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

SPECIAL
CHAPTER 127.5
KAORUKO'S DATE
OUTFIT

SINCE WE WENT TO THAT CAKE SHOP...
IS OUR FIRST FULL DATE...
TOMO-RROW...

AM VERY TROUBLED RIGHT NOW.
AND YET, I, KAORUKO WAGURI...


FOR TOMO-RROW'S DATE!!
ABOUT MY OUTFIT...

!?
WHAT AM I GONNA DOOOO!!

ME AND RINTARO-KUN HAVE GONE OUT SO MUCH I HAVE TROUBLE FINDING CLOTHES TO WEAR...
BUT.. THIS MEANS...
Not the topic at hand!
I WORE THIS LAST YEAR...
AND I THINK I'VE WORN THIS TOO
SUMMER OUTFITS ARE SO DIFFICULT TO PICK...
HMM...
BUT... IT'S OUR FIRST DATE IN SUCH A LONG TIME!
I WANT HIM TO THINK I'M CUTE!
I HAVE TO GIVE IT MY ALL!
THE PAIRINGS AND THE VARIATIONS YOU CAN DO ARE LIMITED...
THERE ARE SOME MORE OPTIONS IF YOU INCLUDE CASUAL CLOTHING...

LEMME TRY CHANGING THE SYSTEM A LITTLE BIT...!

AH...

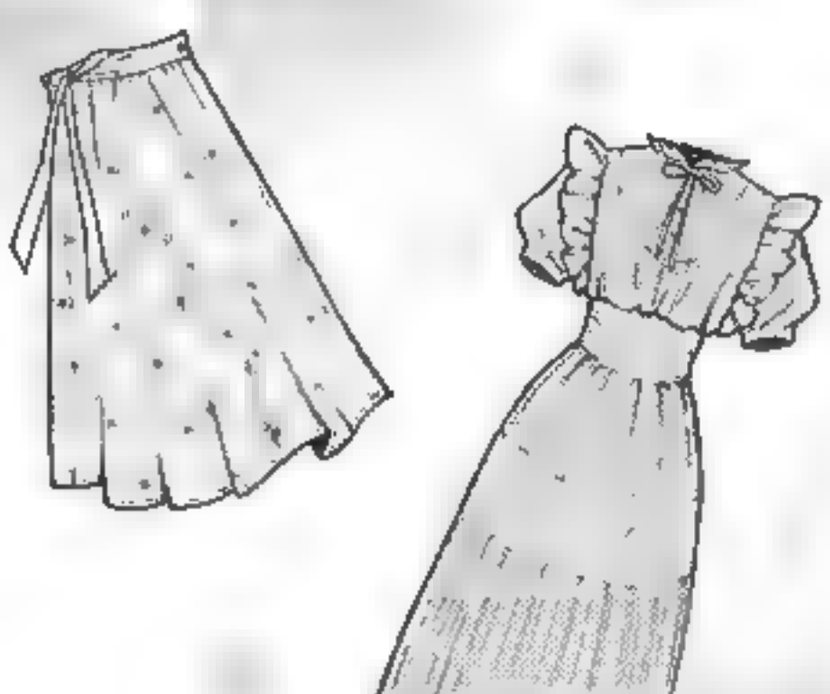
RIGHT!

SUBARU AND AYU'S PANTS LOOKED COOL, SO I BOUGHT SOMETHING LIKE IT...

I FORGOT I HAD SOME JEANS...

"I WANNA TRY THAT LOOK" OR "I WANNA WEAR THAT..."

THERE'S LOTS OF TIMES WHERE I THINK...

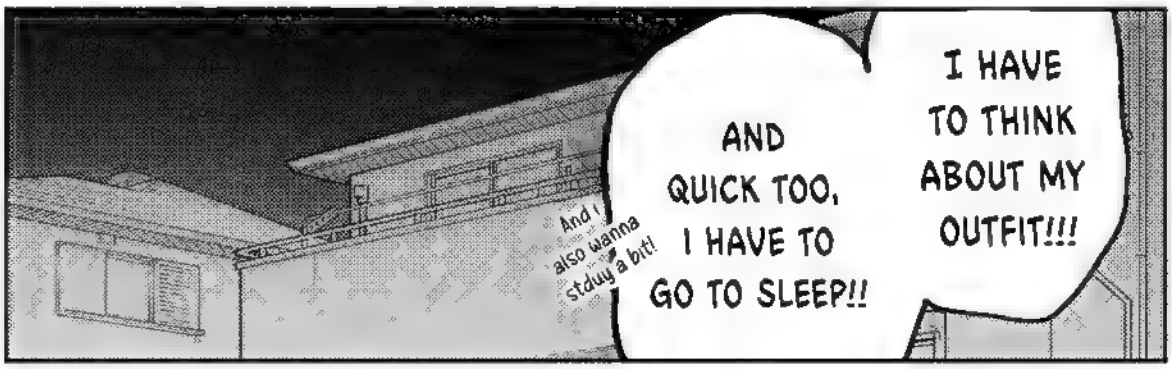


I'VE GENERALLY ONLY EVER LIKED DRESSES AND LONG SKIRTS, BUT...

ALSO, ME AND SUZUKA HAVE SIMILAR TASTES, SO WE OFTEN HAVE LIVELY CONVERSATIONS.
I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT MINISKIRTS TOO...
ESPECIALLY STUFF LIKE MADOKA OR CHISA...
LEMME TRY TO IMAGINE IT...
HMM...
GONNA TAKE A LOT OF COURAGE!
YEAH ...

WHAT ELSE COULD I WEAR...?
BUT IT'S ALSO VERY FUN TO FANTASIZE...
MAYBE AN IDOL OUTFIT?
A DRESS FROM THE MIDDLE AGES LOOKS LOVELY AS WELL!
AND THEN...

I NEED TO FOCUS!!


I HAVE TO THINK ABOUT MY OUTFIT!!!
AND QUICK TOO, I HAVE TO GO TO SLEEP!!
And I also wanna study a bit!

KAORUKO -SAN... YOUR VIBE IS KINDA DIFFERENT TODAY...
I ENDED UP WEARING JEANS...
Other than studying and working part-time I don't have much to do.

NEXT DAY
Morning!

COOL... HUH!?

YOU'RE... COOL!

IT SUITS YOU!

Y-YEP! THAT'S RIGHT!

TL/N: COOL IS A ADJECTIVE FOR MALES IN JAPAN. GIRLS, ESPECIALLY YOUNGER ONES, GENERALLY RECIEVE "CUTE" AS A COMPLIMENT

HUH?

WELL ...

AND LOOK...

MY T-SHIRT IS KINDA BLUE TOO...

IT'S LIKE...

WE'RE MATCHING COLORS...

RIGHT ...

Y-
YEP!

SHE'S MUCH MORE LIVELY NOW...
THAT'S RIGHT, WE'RE MATCHING, RINTARO -KUN!
I'M GLAD I PICKED THIS!!

THIS TRANSLATION
IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
DAISUKIHOTARU SCANS

RAWS: MIKHI
TL: MIKHI
RD: RUIIO
TS: MIKHI

JOIN THE DISCROD!!!!
DISCORD.GG/KAORUHANAWARINTOSAKU

VOLUME 17 IS OUT IN JP!
CHECK OUT THE COVER!

THIS IS A FAN TRANSLATION!
PLEASE BUY THE ORIGINAL RAWS
OR THE OFFICIAL TRANSLATION WHEN
IT'S AVILABLE IN YOUR COUNTRY!
THANKS!

RIN-TARO-KUN!

!

THE MONTH HAS MOVED ON TO JUNE.

WITH THE SPORTS FESTIVAL BEHIND US...

Sorry for the wait!

MOO-OOR-NING!

HEY THERE.

I'M GOING ON ANOTHER DATE WITH KAORUKO-SAN.

AND TODAY...

Chapter 128: A Kind Soul

OOOH!

WOOOW!

OUR CLASSMATES THANKFULLY FILMED THE MATCHES FOR US.

Th-Thanks.

AMA-ZING!

EVERYONE'S SO GOOD! AND ATHLETIC, TOO!

How cool is that?

ISN'T THINKING AT ALL.

NO HESITATION TOWARDS STUDENTS FROM CHIDORI.

We lost in the final round!

How did it go?

THEY'RE ALREADY WARMING UP

YOU REMEMBERED?

I MEAN, USAMI-KUN MENTIONED YOU GOT SECOND PLACE LAST YEAR, SO...

HUH ...?

DID YOU WIN THIS YEAR?!

Oh, now that you say it!

DAMN IT ALL!!

GA-AA-AH!!

ABOUT THAT...

Well...

BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
WINNER: CLASS 2

THE GODDESS OF VICTORY SIDED WITH CLASS 2 TODAY, SO DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU, LOSER!

Ha ha ha!

You damn show-off!

OF COURSE YOU JUST HAD TO SCORE LAST SECOND, YOU BASTARD!

!!

WITH THIS, THE LARGE PIZZA WILL BE OURS—

WOOO!!!

SMUG

HUFF

WE ALMOST HAD THEM...

Nooo! Our promised ice cream and juiceee!!

SAKU, MY COMRADE... I'M SORRY, THEY BEAT US AGAIN...

IT'S ALL GOOD.

YO, SHO-HEI.

That was crazy!

Damn!

I can't see crap because of all the people!

WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE?!

GAAAAH!

WOHOOO! WE WON!

AYATO AVENGED YOU GUYS.

Ha ha ha.

GRRR ...!

MIGHT BE NO PIZZA, BUT THE SIGHT OF YOU GUYS ALL DEFEATED IS QUITE TASTY, TOO.

DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT WINNER: CLASS 1

Nicely done!

YOOO, AYATO!

REALLY? MEH, SORRY ABOUT THAT.

YOU...YOU RUINED OUR DREAM... **OUR PIZZA!!**

YOU THINK SO?

HE'S THE TYPE OF GUY TO GET SERIOUS WHEN THERE'S SOMETHING ON THE LINE, IS ALL.

He's knocking out one player after another...

YOU KNOW... YORITA-KUN CAN BE REALLY SCARY SOME-TIMES...

OH, THAT'S A BUMMER!

BUT SINCE WE LOST OUR FINAL MATCH, WE HAD TO MAKE DO WITH JUST THE JUICE.

OUR HOME-ROOM TEACHER PROMISED TO TREAT US TO ICE CREAM AND SOME JUICE IF WE MANAGED TO WIN BOTH TOURNA-MENTS...

IT WAS A BLAST, YEAH.

I SEE! STILL, I CAN TELL YOU ALL HAD A LOT OF FUN.

SO I WAS RIGHT!

YEAH, YEAH, SAME PERSON.

I FEEL LIKE YOU MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT THAT ICE CREAM PRO-MISE WHEN WE WENT TO THE AQUARIUM.

THAT HOMEROOM TEACHER IS THE SAME ONE YOU HAD IN YOUR SECOND YEAR, RIGHT?

SAY WHAT?!

LEAN

HOW ABOUT I GIVE YOU SOME OF MY ICE CREAM AS A REWARD INSTEAD?

?

OH!

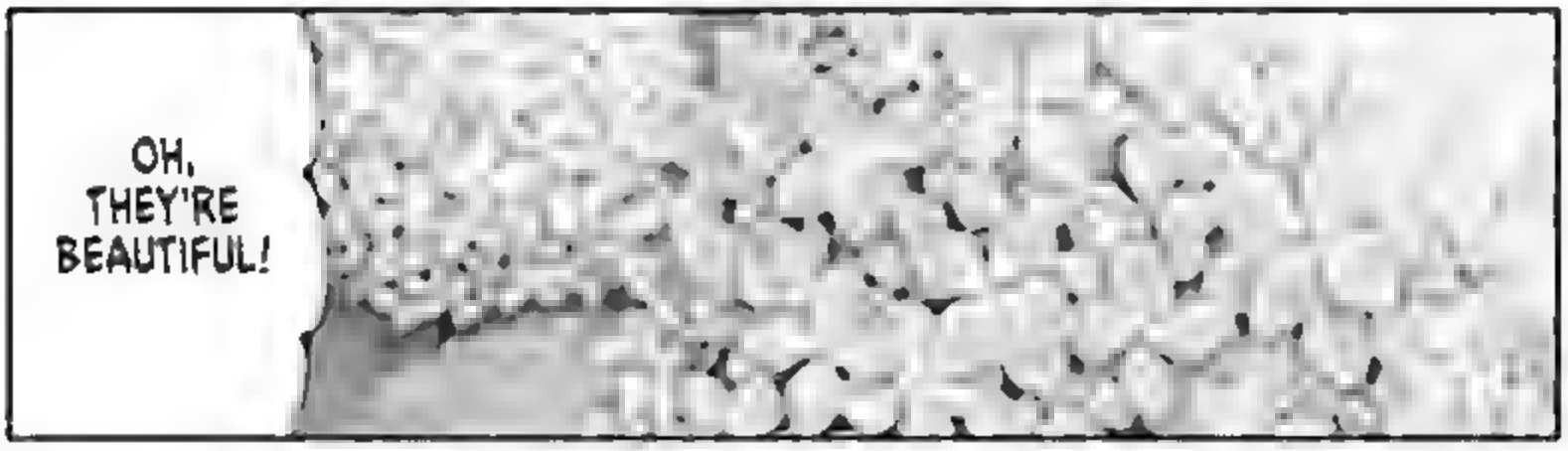
DING

HERE!

THEN...

...

DON'T MIND IF I DO


OH, THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL!

I HEARD THE HYDRANGEA FLOWERS GROWING HERE ARE A BREATH-
AKING SIGHT WHEN THEY BLOOM EVERY
AR

HEY, RIN-TARO-KUN—

STARE

...

NOTHING MUCH.

I RARELY SEE YOU TAKING PICTURES. WHAT BROUGHT THIS UP?

SNAP

JUST FIGURED I COULD MAYBE USE THIS AS A REFERENCE FOR A CAKE ONE DAY.

IT'S BEEN ON MY MIND A LOT MORE LATELY.

ARE YOU... DOING THAT OFTEN? THINKING ABOUT CAKE, I MEAN.

SO... THAT PHOTO YOU SHOWED ME BEFORE WE GOT TO THE VIDEOS...

YOU MADE SURE TO TAPE YOUR FINGERS, RIGHT? TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE INJURY?

HUH? AH, YEAH, I DID.

I DIDN'T WANT TO RISK LOSING PRECIOUS TIME THAT COULD BE USED FOR MY WORK.

...

SOME FRIEND I AM, RIGHT?

THOUGH BECAUSE OF THAT, THOSE GUYS ENDED UP DOING MOST OF THE HEAVY LIFTING DURING THE TOURNAMENT.

I'VE DECIDED...

...TO BECOME A PÂTISSIER IN THE FUTURE.

THANK YOU SO MUCH...!!

1 What are yo

Attending university

2 Please state your university of choice and your preferred department faculty

	First Choice	Second Choice
University	Narimehana Women's University	Metropolitan T University

I'M SORRY, I... HAVEN'T DECIDED YET.

YOU DIDN'T FILL OUT ANYTH NG REGARDING YOUR DEPART-MENT OR FACULTY OF CHOICE.

LOOK NG OVER THE QUESTIONNAIRE YOU HANDED IN BEFORE THE LAST MID-TERMS.

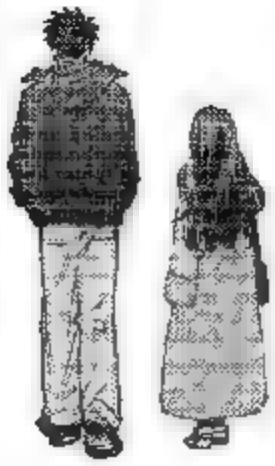
I'M JUST NOT SURE WHAT CHOICE WOULD BE THE RIGHT ONE.

!

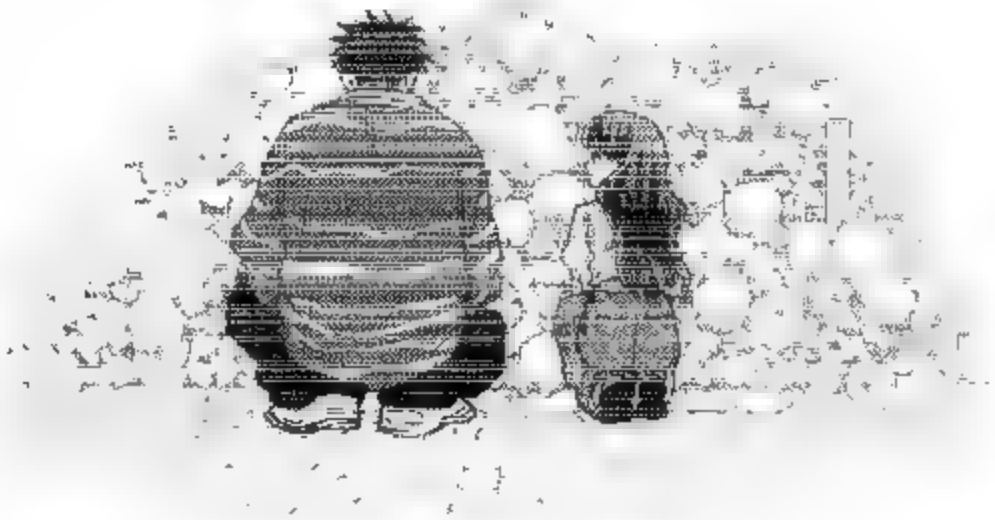
MUMBLE MUMBLE

THAT'S AMAZ-ING.

...EVEN DECIDE WHAT'S BEST FOR THEIR FUTURE?



HOW DOES EVERYONE ELSE...



YOU'RE SO COOL.

UH, SURE...

N-NEVER MIND! FORGET I SAID ANYTHING! LET'S KEEP GOING, SHALL WE?

...

GASP ?

WELL...

I DO HAVE A PARTICULAR UNIVERSITY IN MIND, BUT IT'S NOTHING SOLID YET.

NOR DO I REALLY KNOW WHICH DEPARTMENT I'M GOING TO JOIN, EITHER.

DID YOU ALREADY FIGURE OUT...

WHAT IT IS YOU WANT TO DO IN THE FUTURE?

SAY...

YEAH?

A WHILE AGO...
YOU MEN-TIONED THAT...
EVEN I.
HAVEN'T FOUND THE ONE THING I WANT TO DO IN THE FUTURE.
AND THAT'S WHY I CAN'T HELP BUT ADMIRE SUBARU.
SHE'S FOUND HER DREAM AND S MARCHING ONWARD IN HE DIRECTION OF THAT GOAL.
...YOU HADN'T YET DECIDED WHAT PATH YOU WANT TO PURSUE, RIGHT?
IS THAT STILL THE CASE?
...
LOOKING OVER THE QUESTIONNAIRE YOU HANDED IN BEFORE THE LAST MID-TERMS.
YOU DIDN'T FILL OUT ANYTHING REGARDING YOUR DEPART-MENT OR FACULTY OF CHOICE.
UHM ...
YEAH.
I'M STILL UNSURE.
...
...
...

GOT IT.

THROB

LET'S KEEP GOING, YEAH?

SORRY TO KEEP PESTERING YOU LIKE THAT.

YEAH ...

HE DECIDED TO LOOK THE OTHER WAY.

FOR MY SAKE.

TURN

...YOU'D BE PUTTING ON A BRAVE FACE AGAIN.

I WAS WORRIED THAT...

...KIND-HEARTED PERSON.

HE'S SUCH A...

GRAB

I'M... SORRY.

I... I WASN'T TELLING THE TRUTH.

?!

WHAT

...!

ACTUAL-LY... THERE IS SOME-THING.

SOME-THING THAT... I'M INTER-ESTED IN...

...!

Mom! Look, over there!

BECO-
MING AN
OBSTE-
TRICIAN-
GYNE-
COLO-
GIST

MS

...KOSUKE FIRST HELD MY FINGER WITH HIS SMALL HAND.

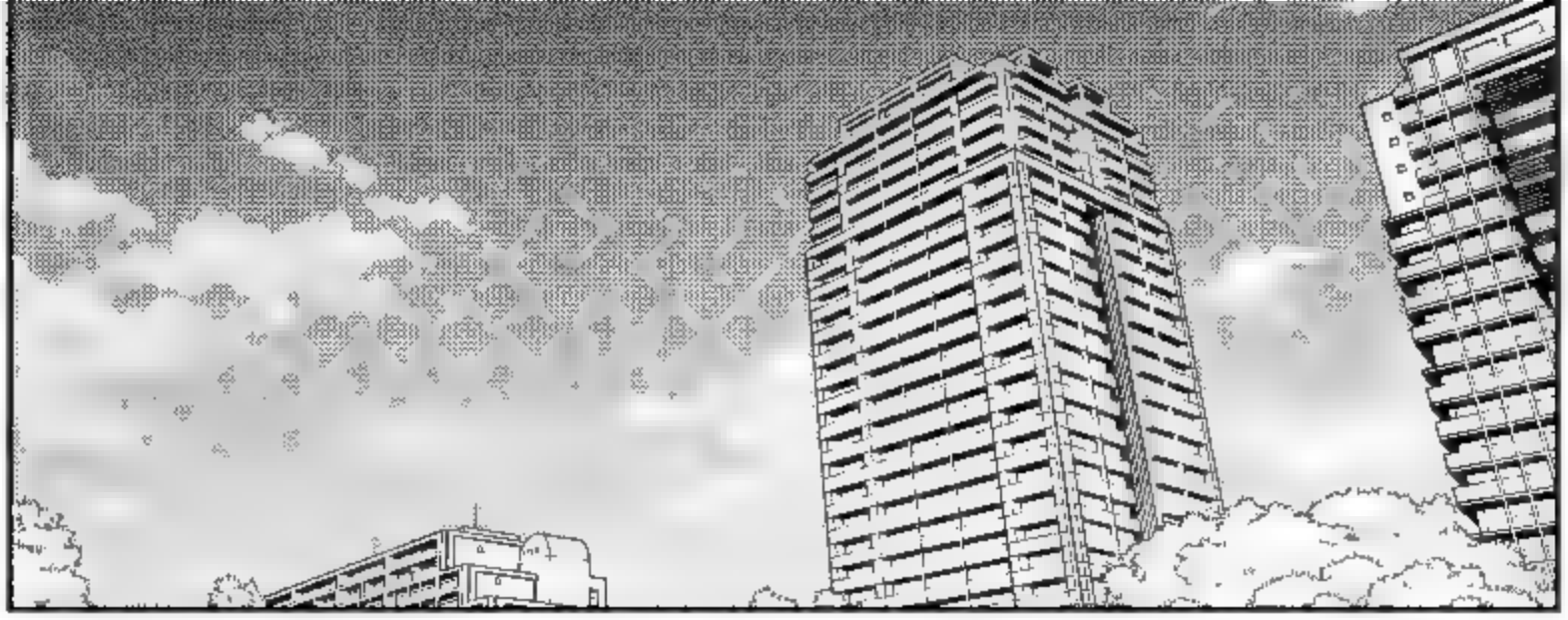
WHEN I WAS THREE YEARS OLD...

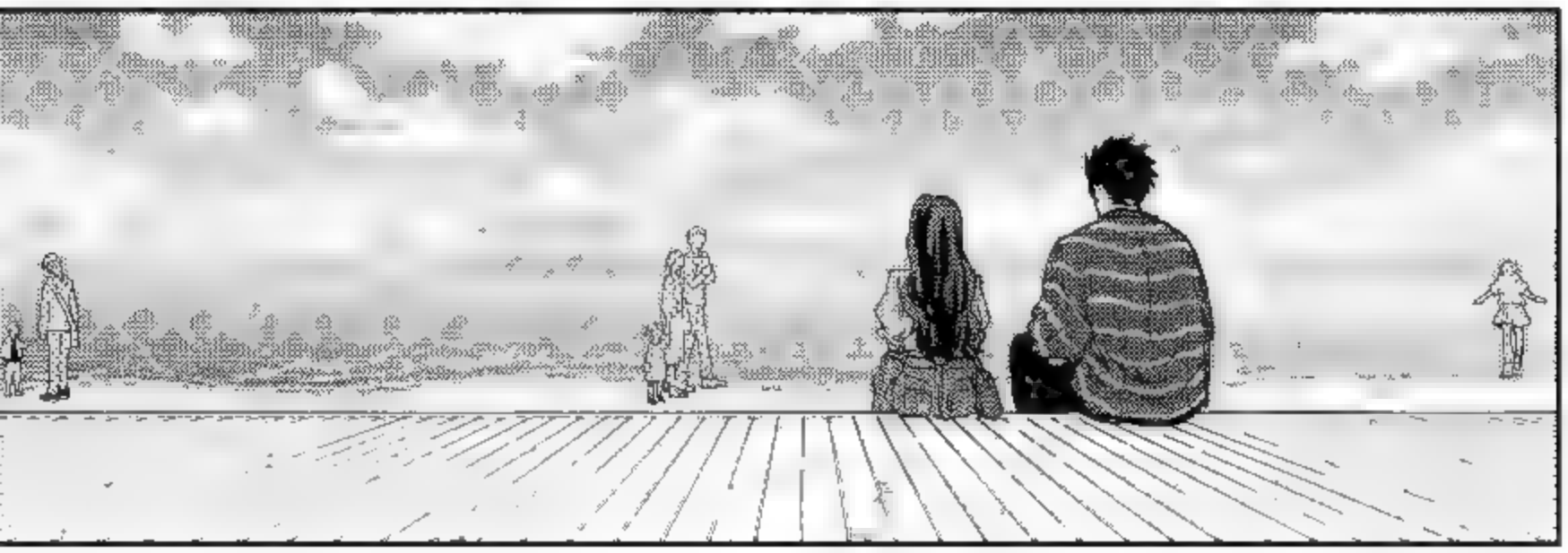
THE WARMTH I FELT FROM HIM...

AND THE PLEASANT SCENT OF HAPPINESS DRIFTING THROUGH THE ROOM...

...I STILL REMEMBER CLEARLY TO THIS DAY.

Chapter 129: Kaoruko's Future





IT'S... BECOMING AN OBSTE-TRICIAN-GYNECO-LOGIST.

GLANCE
チラ…
…
THERE IS SOMETHING.
SOMETHING THAT I'M INTERESTED IN...

WAVE
Sorry...
WAVE
Come on.
STARE
OH...?
!
...
HEE HEE.
YEAH...
I ADORE CHILDREN.
...LIKE LITTLE CHILDREN, DON'T YOU?
YOU REAL-LY...
HM?
LAST YEAR WHEN WE WENT TO THE AQUARIUM, YOU HAD NO TROUBLE HAVING THAT GIRL WARM UP TO YOU.
Ha ha ha!
MIKA-CHAN, YOU MEAN?

...NO.

I HAVEN'T.

ABOUT... YOUR IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE, THAT IS.

HAVE YOU TOLD ANYONE ELSE?

YOU'RE... THE FIRST PERSON I TALKED TO ABOUT THIS.

I HAVEN'T TOLD THEM, EITHER.

MAYBE... YUZU-HARA-SAN AND THE OTHERS?

WHAT ABOUT HOSHINA-SAN...?

HUH? YOUR PARENTS MUST KNOW, RIGHT?

NO, THEY DON'T.

NOPE.

WHA-AAT...?

IT'S JUST SOMETHING I COULD NEVER BRING MYSELF TO SAY OPENLY.

...FOR TELLING ME.

THANK YOU...

I WAS REALLY SURPRISED WHEN YOU DID.

SO YOU SAW RIGHT THROUGH ME...

I CAN'T EVER BEAT YOU, CAN I?

Ha ha ha...

I STILL VIVIDLY REMEMBER THE DAY...

...

...WENT TO THE HOSPITAL TO VISIT THE BOTH OF THEM.

DAD AND I IMME-DIATELY...

...WHEN KOSUKE WAS BORN.

I SAW HIM FOR THE FIRST TIME.

AND THEN...

I BECAME CURIOUS...

...AND TOUCHED HIS CHEEK WITH MY FINGER.

BOTH MOM AND DAD...

THEY SEEMED OVERJOYED AT OUR FIRST INTERACTION.

AND SEEING THEM LIKE THAT MADE ME HAPPY, TOO.

MY YOUNGER SELF...

ADORED THIS MERRY TIME MORE THAN ANY-THING.

...BUT WHEN I WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, I LEARNED ABOUT THE JOB OF AN OBSTETRICIAN AND GYNECOLOGIST.

I DIDN'T REALLY STOP TO THINK ABOUT IT ANYMORE AFTER THAT...

Field Guide on Jobs

...DOCTORS WITH THAT PROFESSION HELPED CREATE THE SAME PLEASANT AND WARM PLACE...

TO ME, IT SOUNDED LIKE...

...AND DEEPLY ADORED.

Hospitals Part 3

Professionals dealing with safe childbirth!

A doctor who assists with the birth of children and helps women who are feeling sick or unhealthy.

Obstetrician-gynecologist (OB/GYN)

...THAT I STILL DISTINCTLY REMEMBERED...

THE ADMIRATION AND INTRIGUE I FELT ALSO GREW EXPONENTIALLY.

SO WHEN I GREW UP AND STARTED THINKING ABOUT MY OWN FUTURE MORE...

IT SOUNDED LIKE A WONDERFUL JOB.

Field Guide on Jobs

DOCTORS REALLY ARE...

AMAZING PEOPLE, RIGHT?

...YEAH.

SUCH A GENTLE SMILE...

SO... IT'S OKAY IF YOU'D RATHER NOT TELL ME, BUT...

!

AREN'T YOU GOING TO... TRY AND GO FOR IT?

...

BUT HONEST-LY... I'M NOT SURE.

HAHA...

YOU'D THINK SO AFTER HEARING ME GUSH ABOUT IT, RIGHT?

EVEN IF I WENT FOR IT...

THE TUITION FEE ISN'T ANYTHING TO SCOFF AT.

JUST ATTENDING KIKYO WAS ALREADY THE UPPER LIMIT ON WHAT MY PARENTS COULD PAY...

SO IF POSSIBLE, I DON'T WANT TO BURDEN THEM ANY MORE THAN I ALREADY DO RIGHT NOW.

I COULD.

I'VE LOOKED INTO IT A WHOLE LOT, SO I KNOW ABOUT MY OPTIONS.

WITH YOUR GRADES, CAN'T YOU GET INTO A UNIVER-SITY...

USING A SCHOLAR-SHIP SYSTEM OR SOME-THING LIKE THAT?

...

SURE, BUT...

I KNOW WHAT I CAN DO TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE.

ALL
EVERY-
THING I'VE
JUST TOLD
YOU...
MY
PARENTS
THE MONEY
IT'S ALL JUST
EXCUSES.

AS YOU KNOW, I WAS IN MY THIRD YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL...

WHEN MOM COLLAPSED FOR THE FIRST TIME.

NATURALLY, ALL THE POSSIBLE WORST-CASE SCENARIOS IMMEDIATELY RACED THROUGH MY MIND.

AND ...IT MADE ME REALIZE SOMETHING.

WORKING AS A DOCTOR...

...MEANS THAT YOU HAVE TO GET USED TO THAT.

DEALING WITH TRAUMATIC CASES SUCH AS WHAT WE WENT THROUGH... EVERY SINGLE DAY.

AND WHEN THAT REALIZATION SET IN...

WHEN I THOUGHT OF MY DREAM OF BECOMING A DOCTOR...

I SUDDENLY DIDN'T FEEL AS CONVINCED AND OPTIMISTIC ABOUT IT ANYMORE.

EVERYONE VIEWS ME IN SUCH A GOOD LIGHT, RIGHT?

CHEERFUL!"

I LOVE THEM FOR THAT, OF COURSE.

AND I WANT TO BE THE PERSON THEY SEE ME AS.

...IS BECAUSE THEY ALWAYS SUPPORT ME.

BUT...

THE REASON I CAN EVEN ACT IN SUCH A WAY...

THE TRUTH IS...

WHEN IT COMES TO HIDING MY OWN FEELINGS.

I'M JUST A TAD BIT BETTER THAN THE AVERAGE PERSON...

BUT...

I'M ACTUAL-LY...

...NOT BRAVE OR STRONG.

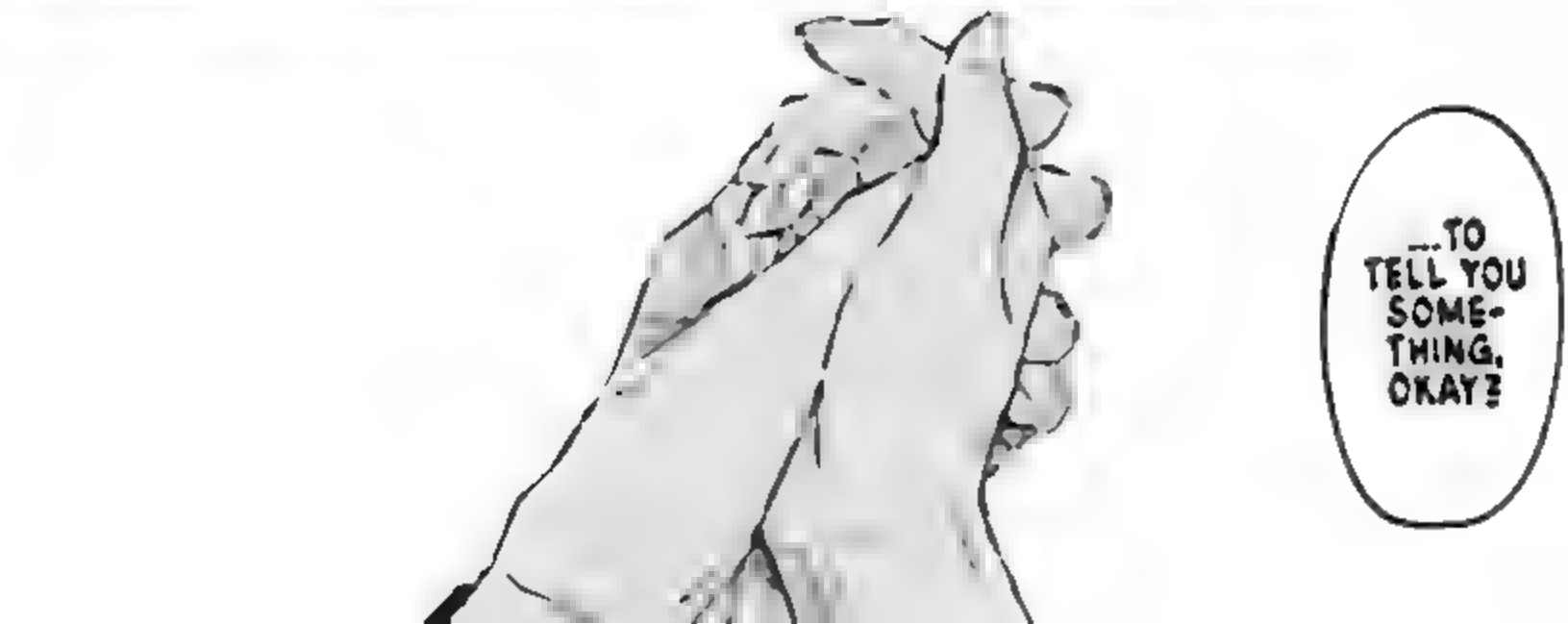
DEEP DOWN...

I'M TERRIFIED OF TAKING THAT FIRST STEP.

...!

NOW IT'S MY TURN...

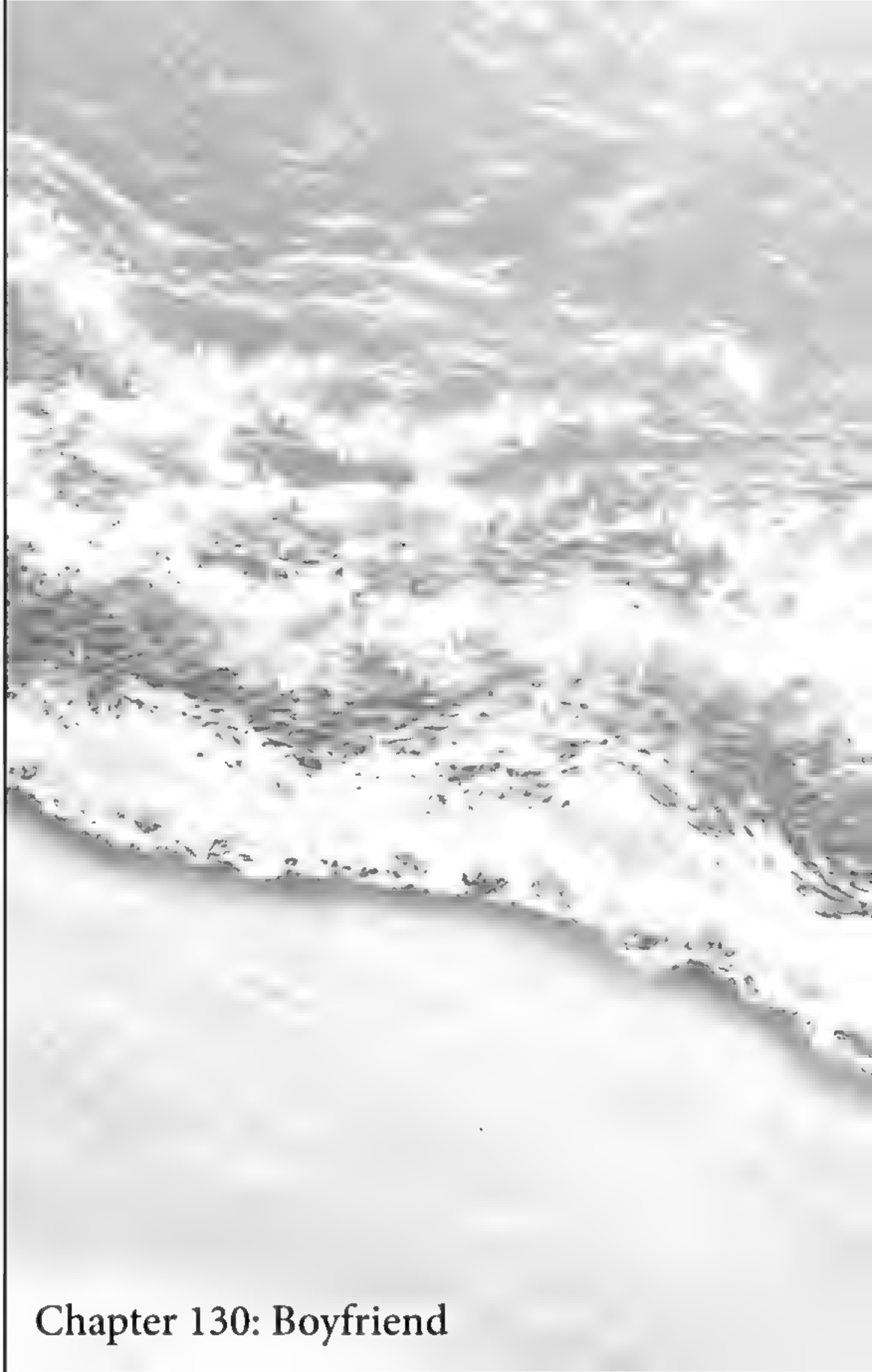
KAO-RUKO-SAN...


...TO TELL YOU SOME-THING, OKAY?

KAO-
RUKO-
SAN.

NOW
IT'S MY
TURN...

...TO
TELL YOU
SOME-
THING,
OKAY?



Chapter 130: Boyfriend

YOU KNOW...

...I HAD A CERTAIN THOUGHT.

WHEN YOU WERE TELLING ME HOW YOU FELT...

AND WHEN THAT REALIZATION SET IN.

WHEN I THOUGHT OF MY DREAM OF BECOMING A DOCTOR.

I SUDDENLY DIDN'T FEEL AS CONVINCED AND OPTIMISTIC ABOUT IT ANYMORE.

SO EVERYTHING I'VE JUST TOLD YOU...

MY PARENTS... THE MONEY... IT'S ALL JUST EXCUSES.

YOU CALL IT EXCUSES...

AND SAY THAT YOU'RE SCARED, BUT...

IF YOU ASK ME...

YOU'RE GENUINELY AMAZING.

I'M TERRIFIED OF TAKING THAT FIRST STEP.

DEEP DOWN.

I'M ACTUALLY...

NOT BRAVE OR STRONG.

RUNNING AWAY?

IN THE END...

I'M JUST RUNNING AWAY FROM THE RESPONSIBILITY.

WHA...

BUT I'M REALLY NOT...

THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU'RE DOING.

WHO SAYS YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY?

...ISN'T A BAD THING AT ALL.

FEELING SCARED OF SOMETHING...

...AND THAT SORT OF FIELD IS WAY OUT OF MY WORLD, SO THE THOUGHT HASN'T EVER CROSSED MY MIND.

I'M NOT NEARLY SMART ENOUGH TO EVEN CONSIDER BECOMING A DOCTOR...

...I COULD IMAGINE HOW SCARY IT MUST BE TO WORK IN THAT FIELD.

BUT WHILE I WAS LISTENING TO YOU...

IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN, OR SHOULD, TAKE LIGHTLY.

PEOPLE'S LIVES ARE IN YOUR HANDS, RIGHT?

BUT... DESPITE THAT...

...YOU'RE STILL THINKING OF GOING FOR IT, RIGHT?

WHO WOULDN'T BE SCARED?

WHO WOULDN'T THINK OF RUNNING AWAY?

...AND TERRIFIED, BUT...

DEEP DOWN...

I'M TERRIFIED OF TAKING THAT FIRST BITE.

YOU MAY FEEL SCARED ...

IT'S STILL BURNING INSIDE OF YOU, ISN'T IT?

YOUR DESIRE TO BECOME AN OBSTETRICIAN AND GYNECOLOGIST...

dealing with safe childbirth

A doctor who assists with the birth of children and helps women who are feeling sick or unhealthy

Obstetrician-gynecologist (OB/GYN)

YOU SEE...

YOU'VE BEEN HYPERCRITICAL OF YOURSELF FOR FEELING HESITANT...

...YET INCREDIBLY HARSH ON YOURSELF.

YOU'RE ALWAYS KIND TO OTHERS...

...BUT I SEE THAT AS YOUR STRENGTH.

...THE RESPONSIBILITY AND PRESSURE THAT COMES WITH BEING A DOCTOR.

YOU'RE AWARE OF...

THAT'S WHAT YOU TELL YOURSELF, RIGHT?

GRIP

THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO WORK INCREDIBLY HARD FOR THE SAKE OF EVERYONE ELSE...

AND IF YOU DECIDE TO GO THROUGH WITH IT...

THAT'S... JUST INCRE-DIBLE.

...WHILE CARRYING EVERYTHING THAT COMES ALONG.

SHE'S MADE ALL THE DECISIONS IN HER LIFE ON HER OWN...

...AND FOLLOWS THE PATH SHE SET OUT FOR HERSELF...

...

KAO-RUKO...

...SO MUCH FOR THAT.

I RESPECT YOU...

...!

HEY, KAORUKO-SAN?

...

I KNOW THAT YOU PREFER CAKES THAT AREN'T TOO SWEET...

...HUH?

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE KIND OF CAKE?

...BUT IS THERE ANY TYPE OR FLAVOR THAT YOU ESPECIALLY LIKE?

ERM... WELL...!

C'MON. JUST ANSWER MY QUESTION.

WH-WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY TALKING ABOUT CAKE...?!

WHA... HUH?

HONESTLY, ANYTHING GOES AS LONG AS IT'S NOT OVERLY SWEET.

PFFT!

ROLL CAKE, TIRAMISU, SOUFFLÉ...

FRUIT TART, CHOCO-LATE CAKE...

CHEESE-CAKE, MILK CREPE...

SHORT CAKE, MONT BLANC...

...

SORRY... I GUESS I SHOULD'VE EXPECTED YOU TO RUN DOWN THE LIST.

WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING?! YOU TOLD ME TO ANSWER, REMEMBER?!

After all that pro-testing...

HOW ABOUT...

...I MAKE ALL OF THOSE FOR YOU?

ANYWAY...

What's his deal...?

...I'LL BAKE EVERY CAKE YOU'D LIKE ME TO.

WHEN YOU'RE TIRED...

AND FEEL LIKE YOU CAN'T GO ON ANY-MORE...

YOU KNOW...

I CAN'T EXACTLY COM-MENT ON WHAT YOU SHOULD DO. NOR DO I FEEL LIKE I HAVE ANY RIGHT TO DO SO.

...

EVEN IF YOU DECIDE AGAINST BECOMING A DOCTOR.

...THEN I'LL SUPPORT YOU ALL THE WAY.

BUT AS LONG AS IT'S SOMETHING YOU GENUINELY WANT TO DO...

...AND NO MATTER HOW PAINFUL OR EXHAUSTING IT MAY BE...

WHATEVER PATH YOU MAY CHOOSE...

WELL, I KNOW YOU'LL BE FINE.

...I'LL WORK REALLY HARD!

I WANT TO BE WITH YOU, RINTARO-KUN. AND FOR THAT...

...IS MY PRIDE.

...YOU'LL SUCCEED AT IT. THAT'S THE KIND OF PERSON YOU ARE, AFTER ALL.

I DON'T HAVE THE SLIGHTEST DOUBT ABOUT THAT.

I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU.

RIGHT HERE, AND IN THE FUTURE.

SO...

...TO KEEP ON TRYING...

IF YOU EVER FEEL TOO TIRED...

AS PROMISED, I'LL MAKE YOUR FAVORITE CAKES FOR YOU, TOO.

...THEN YOU CAN TELL ME AND I'LL LISTEN UNTIL YOU FEEL BETTER.

...SO NOW, LET ME PROTECT YOU.

LET ME SHARE YOUR TROUBLES AND RESPONSI-BILITIES.

I PLAN TO STAND BY WHAT I SAID THEN.

YOU'VE DONE SO MUCH FOR ME...

REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU BEFORE?

FROM NOW ON...

I'LL SUPPORT YOU WITH EVERYTHING I HAVE.

...DONE SO MUCH...

I CAN'T EVEN COUNT ALL THE TIMES YOU HELPED ME...

But...

THEM I GUESS...

I'LL JUST HAVE TO STEP UP MY GAME!

KAO-RUKO-SAN...

YOU SEE...

...MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE.

I LOVE SEEING YOUR CHEERFUL SMILE...

...TO BE ABLE TO SMILE LIKE THAT... FOREVER AND EVER.

I WANT YOU...

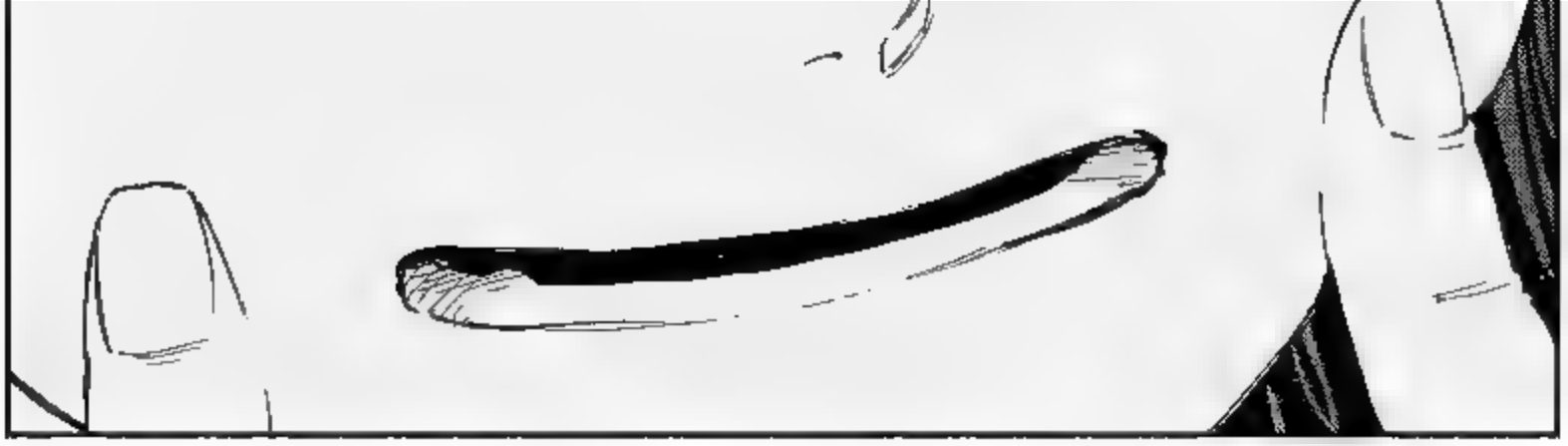
...THEN I WON'T HESITATE TO DO SO. WHATEVER IT TAKES.

SO...

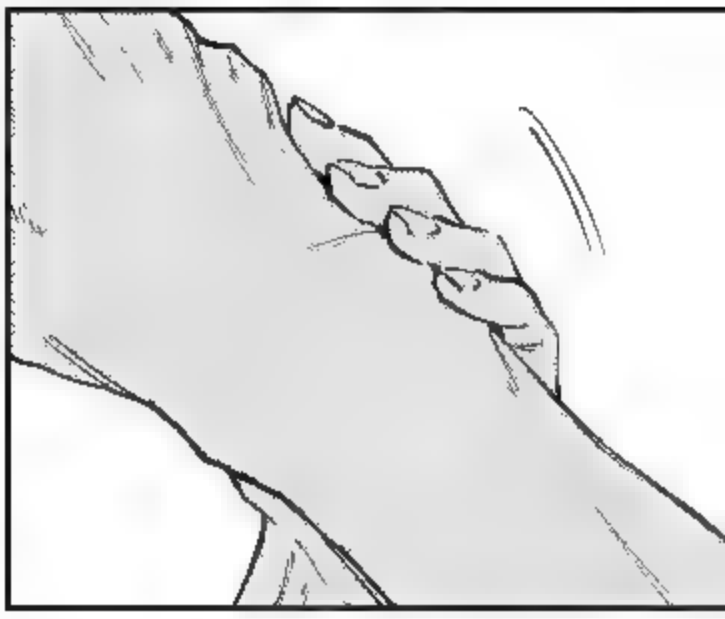
IF I CAN HELP EASE YOUR BURDEN IN ANY WAY...

BECAUSE THAT'S MY JOB...

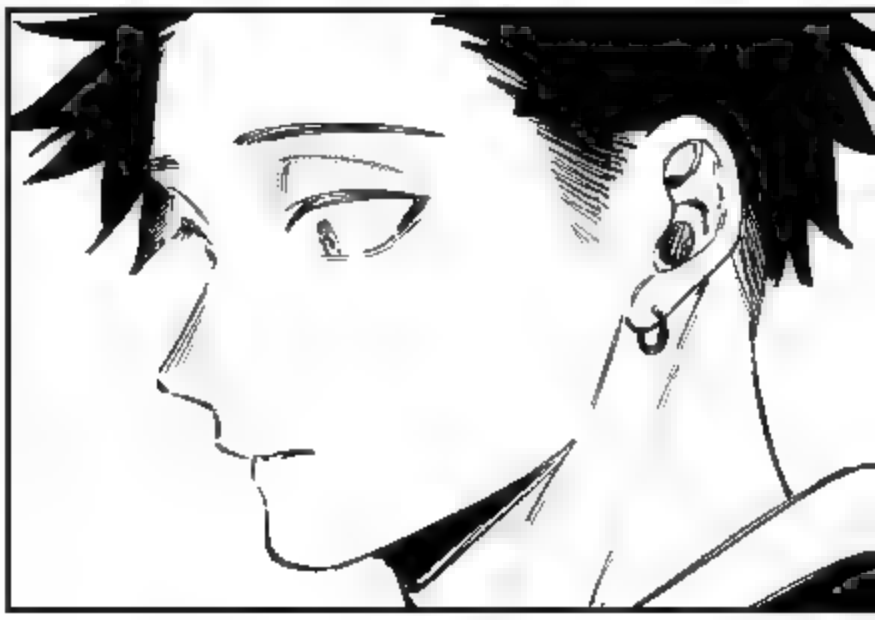
...AS YOUR BOYFRIEND.



...!
PANSH



KAO-
RUKO-
SAN...?
...



?!
SQUISH
HMPH!

I FEEL MUCH BETTER NOW.

THANKS FOR LISTENING TO ME RAMBLE.

PAY-BACK, OF COURSE!

Ha ha ha!

WH-WHAT WAS THAT FOR...?!

...SURE.

LET'S START WALKING AGAIN.

WE SHOULDN'T BE STAYING NEAR THE BEACH TOO LONG, THOUGH. IT GETS COLD EASILY HERE.

I LOVE YOU.

HEY, RIN-TARO-KUN?

YEAH?

I REALLY, REALLY LOVE YOU!

...FELT JUST LIKE THAT DAY WHEN KOSUKE WAS BORN.

BECAUSE THAT'S MY JOB...

...AS YOUR BOYFRIEND.

TALKING WITH HIM...

...AND EVER SINCE...

...AS YOUR BOYFRIEND.

BECAUSE THAT'S MY JOB.

SOMEONE YOU CAN SHOW ALL YOUR PAIN AND SADNESS.

THEN I WANTED TO BECOME SOMEONE WHO CAN BE THERE FOR YOU...

BACK THEN...

Erk, cold...

...YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THE ONE...

...WHO GIVES ME THE STRENGTH TO KEEP MOVING FORWARD.

I'M SO BLESSED...

I...

...HAVE FELT SO MUCH JOY AND HAPPINESS...

...SINCE I MET YOU.

WITH YOU BY MY SIDE...

I'M SURE...

...I CAN GIVE IT MY ALL, NO MATTER WHAT MAY HAPPEN.

Chapter 131: Obstetrician-Gynecologist

Plain

LET ME SHARE YOUR TROUBLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

SO NOW, LET ME PROTECT YOU.

YOU'VE DONE SO MUCH FOR ME

I PLAN TO STAND BY WHAT I SAID THEN.

REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU BEFORE?

TO KEEP ON TRYING.

IF YOU EVER FEEL TOO TIRED

THEN YOU CAN TELL ME AND I'LL LISTEN UNTIL YOU FEEL BETTER.

AS PROMISED, I'LL MAKE YOUR FAVORITE CAKE FOR YOU TOO

FROM NOW ON,

AS YOUR BOYFRIEND,

THERE IS SOMETHING

SOMETHING THAT I'M INTERESTED IN

DEEP DOWN,

I'LL SUPPORT YOU WITH EVERYTHING I HAVE

BECAUSE THAT'S MY JOB.

I'M TERRIFIED OF TAKING THAT FIRST STEP.

NOT TO MENTION THAT I'M STILL UNSURE WHAT SCHOOL I SHOULD GO TO AFTER GRADUATION.

TO BE FAIR, I SHOULDN'T TRY TO MEDDLE IN HER FUTURE.

HMMM

WAS THAT...

THE RIGHT THING TO DO?

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS SUPPORT HER.

BUT NO MATTER WHAT MAY HAPPEN...

...I CAN ALSO TRY HARDER MYSELF.

AND WITH THAT...

STOMP STOMP

GOTTA GET BACK TO THE KITCHEN!

AH, CRAP. MY BREAK'S ALREADY OVER!

MAYBE I SHOULD ASK KASHIWAGI-SAN OR MAYAMA-SAN FOR ADVICE LATER?

HEE HEE...

FEELING SCARED OF SOMETHING...

...ISN'T A BAD THING AT ALL.

...SO MUCH FOR THAT.

I RESPECT YOU...

I'LL SUPPORT YOU WITH EVERYTHING I HAVE.

...AS YOUR BOYFRIEND.

BECAUSE THAT'S MY JOB...

WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT IS THAT YOU DON'T HAVE ANY REGRETS LATER.

WHENEVER YOU HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION...

THE REST COMES ALONG THE WAY, OR SO I THINK AT LEAST.

I'M FINE.

PHEW

THAT'S RIGHT...

...REGRET IT.

I WON'T EVER...

KRAK

I AM
I AM

BUT DON'T EAT TOO MANY, OKAY?

OH, THESE ARE PRETTY GOOD!

HE'S OUT WITH HIS FRIENDS.

I SEE.

NO NEED, THANKS. WHERE'S KOSUKE?

OH, DARLING! TAKING A BREAK FROM STUDY-ING?

DO YOU WANT TO EAT SOME-THING?

CAN WE... TALK?

HEY, MOM? DAD?

清風大学医学部
School of Medicine Seifuu University

2021年
GUID BOOK

KAO-
RUKO...

YOU WANT TO GET INTO...

A MEDICAL SCHOOL?

...

...THAT'S RIGHT.

I GAVE IT A LOT OF THOUGHT...

...

Universi
Medical
ciences

GLANCE

...

I WANT TO GET INTO MED SCHOOL...

AND SO...

BOTH MOM AND DAD

THEY SEEMED OVERJOYED AT OUR FIRST INTERACTION

AND SEEING THEM HAPPY MADE ME HAPPY, TOO

THE WARMTH I FELT FROM HIM

AND THE PLEASANT SCENT OF HAPPINESS DRIFTING THROUGH THE ROOM

I STILL REMEMBER CLEARLY TO THIS DAY

TO ME, IT SEEMED LIKE

DOCTORS WITH THAT PROFESSION WOULD CREATE THE SAME PLEASANT AND WARM PLACE

THIS I STILL DISTINCTLY REMEMBERED.

AND DEEPLY ADORED.

...AND STUDY TO BECOME...
...AN OBSTE-TRICIAN-GYNECO-LOGIST.

AN OBSTE-TRICIAN-GYNECO-LOGIST...

...

I HAVEN'T SOLIDIFIED MY CHOICE JUST YET, BUT...

THERE ARE SEVERAL NATIONAL MED SCHOOLS I COULD CHOOSE FROM.

BUT...

ESPECIALLY IF I WANTED TO BECOME A SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT OR RELY ON SUCH SYSTEMS.

NO MATTER WHAT I MIGHT DO...

...I'LL STILL END UP CAUSING YOU TROUBLE ALONG THE WAY, SO...

I'M SORRY...

...

WHAT I WANT TO DO.

BUT...

IT'S...

UR DOING OME AN

SO, PLEASE...!

HEH...

!

HA-
HA...

...?

THE NOSTALGIA GOT TO ME.

RIGHT, SORRY...

HONEY ...?

THE PAMPHLET FROM KIKYO AND YOUR CAREER SURVEY IN HAND...

IT'S JUST LIKE LAST TIME.

SAYING THAT YOU WANTED TO TAKE THEIR ENTRANCE EXAMS...

I'VE GOT THE EXACT SAME FEELING NOW AS I DID BACK THEN.

AT THE TIME, I WAS RATHER CONCERNED ABOUT IT.

I COULD TELL YOU WERE CHOOSING A HARSH PATH FOR YOURSELF.

IT WAS A SUDDEN CHANGE FROM WHAT YOU WERE PREVIOUSLY THINKING OF DOING...

NOT TO MENTION THAT YOU PUSHED YOURSELF TO GET THE SCHOLARSHIP, ADAMANT ON NOT GOING THERE WITHOUT IT.

BUT MY WORRIES ENDED UP UNFOUNDED.

YOU KEPT ON CARVING YOUR OWN PATH LIKE IT WAS NOTHING.

I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE ANYTHING LEFT TO SAY...

...SO I JUST WATCHED IN AWE AS YOU GREW UP IN FRONT OF MY EYES.

JUST AS BEFORE, YOU THOUGHT A WHOLE LOT ABOUT A FUTURE LIKE THAT...

AND THIS MUST BE THE CONCLUSION YOU REACHED, RIGHT?

...

WHICH IS WHY MY ANSWER... WILL ALSO REMAIN THE SAME.

I WANT YOU TO FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS AND DO WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY.

AS A PARENT...

...THAT IS ALL I COULD EVER WISH FOR.

I CAN... GO TO MED SCHOOL...?

SO THAT MEANS...

W-WAIT...

...!

OF COURSE.

BOW

TH-THANK YOU...!

!

THAT'S FINE.

...BUT I'LL TRY TO—

I WON'T BE ABLE TO AVOID BEING A BURDEN ON YOU...

STILL, IT'S GOING TO TAKE ME SIX YEARS AT THE VERY LEAST...

YOU'RE ALLOWED...

...TO CAUSE US TROUBLE!

HEH, THAT FELT GREAT ...

...

OH, HOW LONG ...

I'VE HOPED TO SAY THESE WORDS.

LISTEN, KAO-RUKO.

...!

I DON'T WANT YOU TO THINK...

CAUSING US TROUBLE IS AN INHERENTLY BAD THING.

AS PAR-ENTS ...

WE REALLY HAVE ONLY ONE IMPORTANT JOB.

WE DON'T FEEL THAT WAY AT ALL, YOU SEE.

WHEN OUR CHILD FINDS SOMETHING THEY WANT TO DO...

...OR DISCOVERS A PATH THEY'D LIKE TO FOLLOW THAT WILL LEAD TO A FUTURE THEY WISH FOR...

...THEN IT'S ON US TO ENSURE...

...THEY ARE GIVEN ALL THE POSSIBLE SUPPORT THEY NEED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.

*Entrance Ceremony

I CAN'T MAKE ANY IRRESPONSIBLE PROMISES...

OR GUARANTEE THERE WON'T BE ANY STRINGS ATTACHED.

OF COURSE, WE'RE NOT RICH OR EVEN REMOTELY CLOSE TO IT.

...WE'LL BE THERE TO SUPPORT YOU ALONG THE WAY.

AS LONG AS IT'S IN OUR POWER...

BUT EVEN SO...

...HAD ALREADY DECIDED AND PREPARED OURSELVES FOR THIS.

WE'LL DO ANYTHING TO OFFER YOU AS MANY POSSIBILITIES AS YOU NEED TO FIND HAPPINESS.

FROM THE MOMENT YOU TWO WERE BORN, YOUR MOTHER AND I...

...IS THAT YOU'RE NOT

I'M NOT WORRIED IN THE SLIGHTEST.

BUT

THAT ALL DEPENDS ON YOUR OWN EFFORTS.

FOR US PARENTS, THERE IS NO GREATER REWARD...

...THAN TO SEE OUR CHILDREN FOLLOWING THEIR DREAMS AND GIVING IT THEIR ALL.

!

...DO OUR BEST, YEAH?

WE'LL BOTH...

THAT'S SERIOUSLY IMPRES-SIVE!

PLUS, AN OBSTE-TRICIAN-GYNECOLO-GIST?

Ha ha!

BUT I CAN'T LET YOU SURPASS YOUR OLD MAN JUST YET!

SURE...

I'LL SHOW YOU...!

DAD...

!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

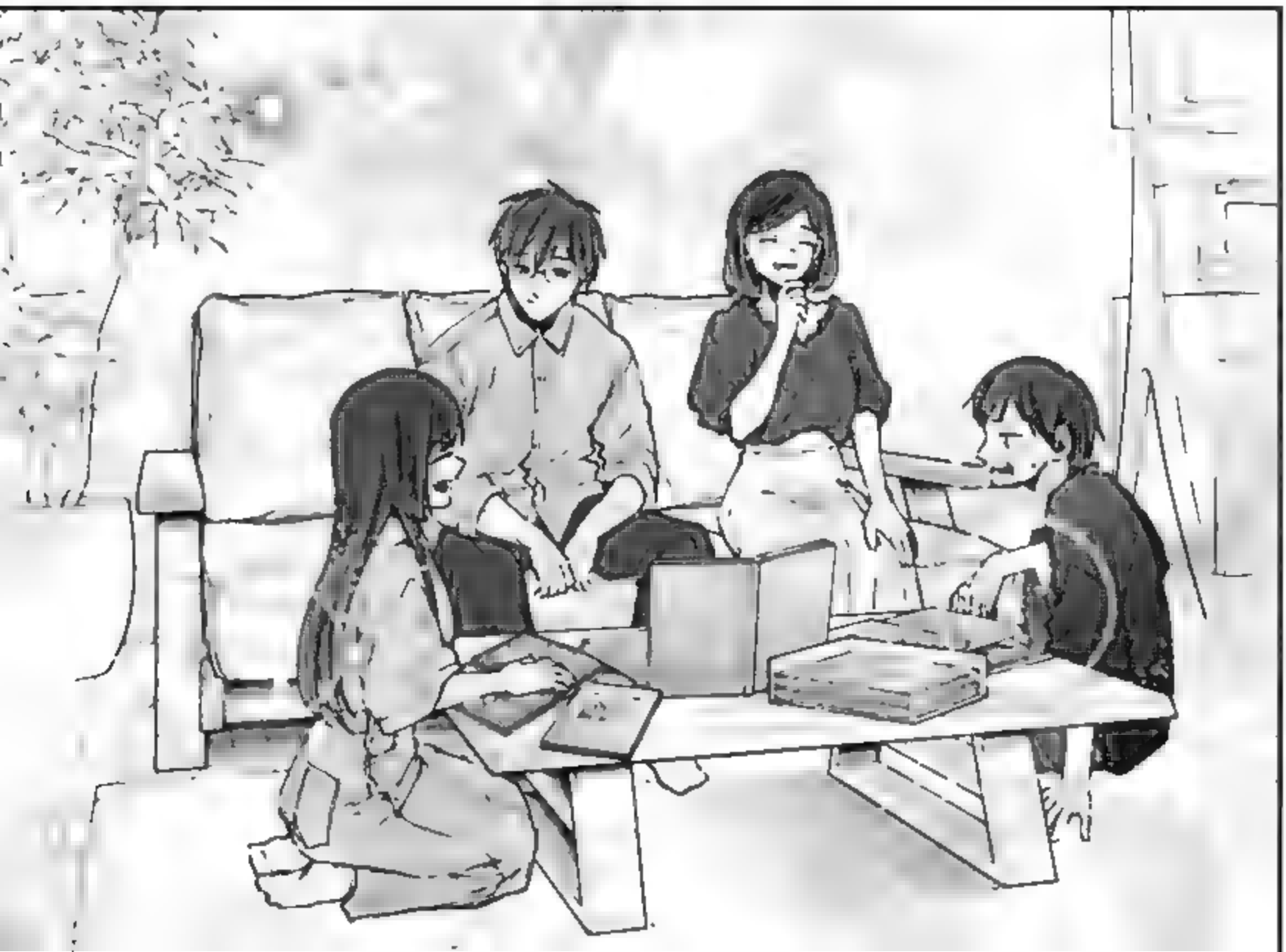
ETAK

WHAT DO YOU SAY...

WE GO THROUGH OUR ALBUMS A LITTLE WHILE?

...MADE ME WANT TO CHECK THROUGH THE PICTURES WE TOOK WHEN SHE AND KOSUKE WERE JUST BORN.

LISTENING TO KAORUKO...



Chapter 152: Their Own Paths

CHATTER

CHATTER

I'M IN HEAVEN!

WOOO!

IT IS A TAD BIT TOO HOT TO EAT OUTSIDE THESE DAYS, AFTER ALL...

SHO GOOD!

Mhm!

EATING AT THE CAFETERIA ISN'T SO BAD OCCASIONALLY, RIGHT?

ERK, I'M SO BAD AT THAT...

CLASSICAL LITERATURE, NO?

SPEAKING OF, WHAT'S FIFTH PERIOD TODAY AGAIN?

ALL NECESSARY ENERGY INTAKE TO SURVIVE OUR AFTERNOON CLASSES!

Heheh!

I TOTALLY GET WHAT YOU MEAN!

HONESTLY, SEEING KAORUKO ORDER A LARGE MENU LIKE THAT MAKES ME FEEL RIGHT AT HOME!

DID ANYTHING CHANGE FOR YOU GUYS SINCE THE LAST MIDTERMS?

THE OTHER DAY, THEY HANDED OUT ANOTHER CAREER SURVEY, RIGHT?

SAID TO HAND IT IN AFTER THE END-OF-TERM EXAMS, BUT...

OH YEAH, I WAS WONDERING...

I UNDERSTAND.

I WOULD SUGGEST YOU TRY AND SOLIDIFY YOUR IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE BY THEN.

THERE WILL BE ANOTHER QUESTIONNAIRE COME JUNE.

THAT'S SERIOUSLY IMPRESSIVE!

PLUS, AN OBSTETRICIAN-GYNECOLOGIST?

Ha ha!

BUT I CAN'T LET YOU SURPASS YOUR OLD MAN JUST YET!

...AN OBSTETRICIAN-GYNECOLOGIST.

...AND STUDY TO BECOME...

A MEDICAL SCHOOL?

YOU WANT TO GET INTO...

JUST WHAT I EXPECTED FROM YOU, CHISA!

YOU'VE BEEN SAYING THAT FOR AGES NOW, RIGHT?

I WAS WONDERING WHY YOU WERE SKIPPING SCHOOL HERE AND THERE, BUT THAT'S BECAUSE YOU PARTICIPATED IN A FEW CONTESTS, RIGHT?

IT'S ALWAYS BEEN MY DREAM TO BECOME A CELLIST, SO...

I'M GOING TO GET INTO A MUSIC UNIVERSITY!

MY GOAL'S THE SAME AS BEFORE!

I WAS THINKING OF SWITCHING MY DEPARTMENT OF CHOICE.

FOR REAL?!

Y-YEAH, ACTUALLY...

BUT WEREN'T YOU STILL A BIT UNSURE WHEN WE GOT THE LAST CAREER SURVEY?

YOU SET YOUR EYES ON AN ART UNIVERSITY, DIDN'T YOU SUZUKA?

QUITE THE JUMP FROM PAINTING, I KNOW...

OH, COOL!

I DECIDED I'D TRY MY LUCK WITH ARCHITECTURE.

I THINK YOUR ART IS WONDERFUL, SUZUKA.
I BELIEVE YOU HAVE THE TALENT FOR IT.
TEHE
TEHE
TH-THANKS...
BUT WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO CHANGE YOUR DEPARTMENT?
ME? WELL...
I DO ENJOY PAINTING QUITE A LOT...
BUT I JUST... COULDN'T SEE MYSELF BECOMING A PAINTER IN THE FUTURE, YOU KNOW?
Well, I know I could've just taken another path after graduating.
THAT SAID, I STILL WANTED TO DO SOMETHING RELATED TO THE ARTS, RIGHT?
SO, SINCE I ALWAYS ENJOYED LOOKING AT ALL THE FAMOUS ARCHITECTURE ALL OVER THE WORLD...
MY INTEREST IN ANY JOBS RELATED TO IT BEGAN TO GROW.
And so, I changed my department!
INTERESTING! THAT DOES MAKE SENSE, YEAH.
...
ACTUALLY... I ALSO CHANGED MY FIRST CHOICE.
!
REALLY?

...BUT A PART OF ME WANTED TO TRY AND GET INTO A BETTER UNIVERSITY.

I WAS GOING BACK AND FORTH ABOUT THIS...

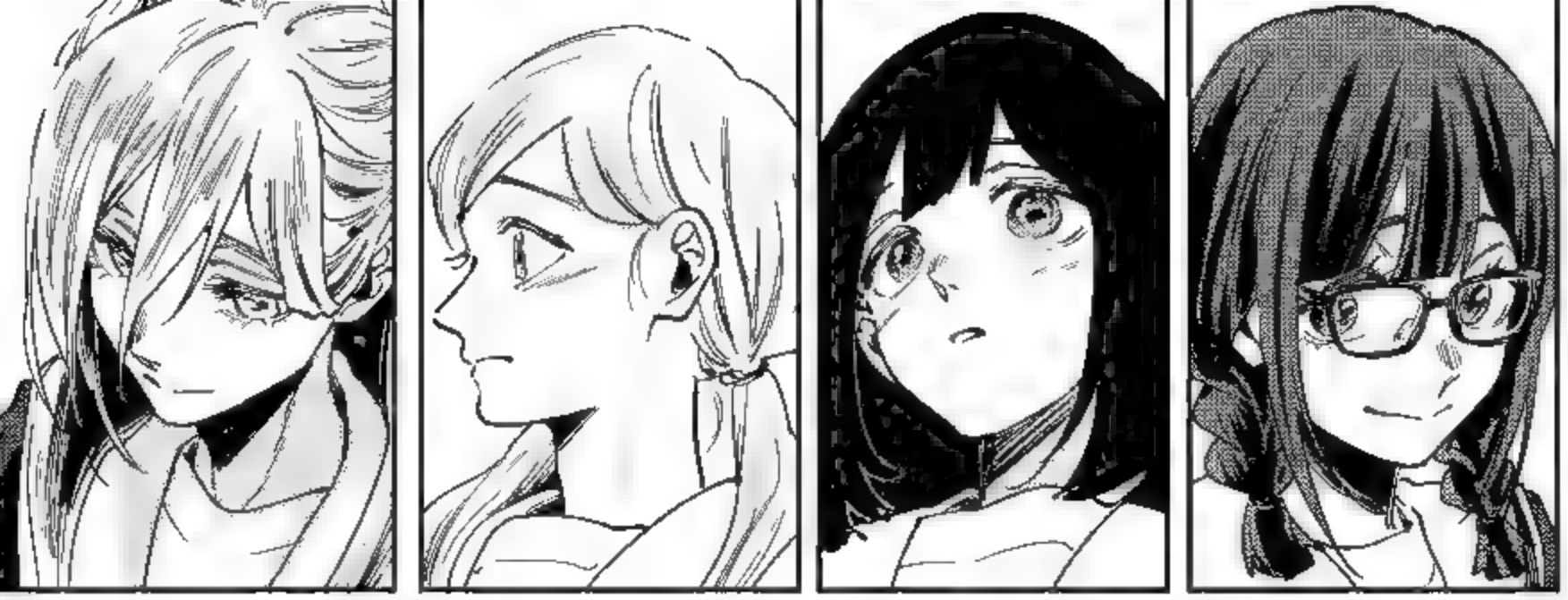
BUT...

SURE ENOUGH, MY PARENTS VOICED THEIR CONCERN ABOUT MY DECISION.

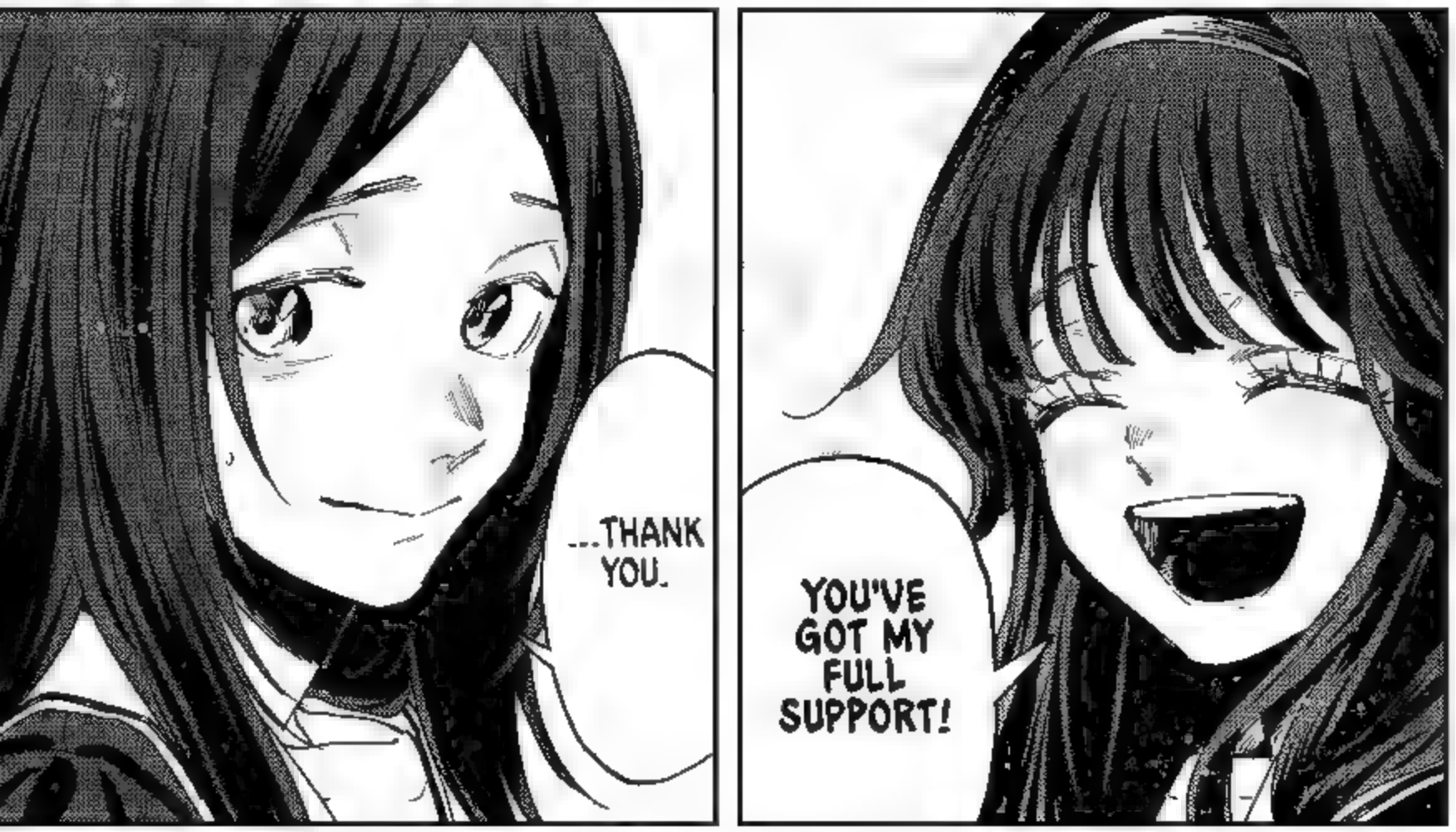
...TRY AND GIVE IT MY ALL.

I JUST WANT TO...

SLURP



...!
THAT SOUNDS AWESOME!


...THANK YOU.
YOU'VE GOT MY FULL SUPPORT!

HOW ARE THINGS ON YOUR END?
YEAH?
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT... SAY, KAORUKO?

OH, THAT'S TRUE!

IF I REMEMBER CORRECT-LY...

YOU WERE STILL UNDECIDED ABOUT WHICH DEPARTMENT TO GO FOR, RIGHT?

YEAH, I REMEMBER THAT!

DIDN'T TOKI-SENSEI GIVE YOU A TALK ABOUT THAT A WHILE AGO?

...

DID YOU MANAGE TO FIND AN ANSWER?

WELL...

UM...

ULENCH

THE THING IS...

I DECIDED THAT I WOULD...

USAMI

宇佐美

WHAT?!

...GET INTO MED SCHOOL?!

YOU WANT TO...

YEP, PRETTY MUCH.

HEE HEE...

I'D LIKE TO BE AN OBSTETRICIAN-GYNECOLOGIST IN THE FUTURE.

DO YOU ALREADY HAVE A PARTICULAR DEPARTMENT IN MIND?

HOW AWESOME IS THAT?!

THAT'S CRAZY!

WOW...!

I ONLY REALLY MADE UP MY MIND A LITTLE WHILE AGO.

AL-THOUGH...

Yeah...

SO YOU WANT TO BECOME A DOCTOR?

HONESTLY, YOU NEVER MENTIONED ANYTHING LIKE THAT BEFORE, SO THAT'S JUST AS SURPRISING.

I THINK SUBARU SAW RIGHT THROUGH ME FROM THE BEGINNING.

Well, well!

HOSHINA-SAN'S GOT ALL OF US BEAT, EH?

YOU KNOW, I TALKED WITH MY PARENTS TODAY.

...

STILL, I THINK IT'S SERIOUSLY IMPRES-SIVE!

HEE HEE, I'LL DO MY BEST!

!

SO THAT MEANS...!

AND...

THEY GAVE ME THE GREEN LIGHT.

...TO TRY AND BECOME AN OBSTE-TRIC AN-GYNECO-LOGIST.

I CAN GIVE IT MY ALL...

THANKS FOR GIVING ME THE PUSH I NEEDED...

...RINTARO-KUN.

CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE HER LOOSING HER COMPOSURE LIKE THAT.

I would've loved to see that in person.

THEY ALMOST COUGHED UP THE FOOD THEY WERE EATING.

Ayu in particular.

COUGH

COUGH

A doctor?!

YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THEIR REAC-TIONS.

IMAGINE MY SURPRISE WHEN SHE TOLD THE REST OF US!

THAT'S AMAZING!

STILL...

EVERY-ONE WAS...

...SO SUPPORTIVE OF MY DECISION.

IT MADE ME... REALLY HAPPY.

YOU GOTTA HAVE FRIENDS LIKE THAT, HUH?

I SEE... YEAH!

THAT'S GREAT TO HEAR!

FOR THE MOST PART, YUP!

SPEAKING OF, HAVE YOU ALREADY DECIDED ON WHAT YOU WANT TO DO, YUZUHARA-SAN?

AND SO, I'M JUST GOING TO ATTEND UNIVERSITY AND SEE WHERE LIFE TAKES ME FROM THERE!

UNLIKE EVERYONE ELSE, I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY CONCRETE GOALS IN MIND...

OR ANY DREAMS I WANT TO ACCOMPLISH.

I DON'T THINK YOU'RE ONE TO TALK, DUDE...

You scare me...

I GUESS ARCADES REALLY DO CHANGE PEOPLE, EH?

OH, FOR REAL?

I STILL REMEMBER THAT ONE TIME YOU ABSOLUTELY DEMOLISHED THAT ZOMBIE SHOOTING GAME AT THE ARCADE. LIKE YOU WERE A DIFFERENT PERSON COMPARED TO RIGHT NOW.

Ha ha ha!

MAYBE I COULD TRY BECOMING A PROFESSIONAL? OR A STREAMER!

THAT SAID, I'M PRETTY GOOD WHEN IT COMES TO GAMES, THOUGH!

YES, THAT'S CORRECT.

I WENT THROUGH ANOTHER ROUND OF MOCK EXAMS THE OTHER DAY, TOO.

AND YOU'RE STILL SET ON T-UNIVERSITY, HOSHINA-SAN?

HONESTLY, I GET NERVOUS JUST THINKING ABOUT IT...

CORRECT.

SPEAK-ING OF!

DIDN'T YOU HAVE AN EXAMINATION FOR THE POLICE SOON, AYATO? WHEN WAS IT, SEPTEMBER?

...

ACTUALLY...

ALSO T-UNIVER-SITY?

AND? SAKU?

...!

HUH?! FOR REAL?!

I'M STILL NOT FULLY DEVOTED TO T-UNIVERSITY YET.

Though I'm definitely gonna take the academic route.

WELP, DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S T-UNIVERSITY OR NOT!

...

I've been saying that all this time, you know?

SLAP

SLAP

I MEAN, OUR LITTLE RINTARO'S GONNA BECOME A PÂTISSIER, AFTER ALL!

IT SURE LOOKS TO ME LIKE EVERY-ONE HERE'S ALREADY GOT SOMEWHAT OF A CLEAR GOAL IN MIND!

I REALLY ADMIRE ALL OF YOU GUYS FOR FINDING SOMETHING YOU WANNA DO!

And I'd have to apply for a job real soon, too!

GO TO UNIVERSITY? LOOK FOR A JOB?

MEANWHILE, I DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO.

HOLD ON A SECOND!

WAIT...

FWU

...BY SO MANY AMAZING FOLKS!!

MP

I'M SURROUND-ED...

...

HOW DO I EVEN KEEP UP WITH THAT?!

...!

...

IF I HAD TO GUESS, WE'RE ALL THINKING THE SAME THING RIGHT NOW.

RIGHT?

WELL, Y'KNOW...

UHHH, GUYS?

WHAT'S WITH THE WEIRD LOOKS? DID I SAY SOMETHING ODD?

NO WAY, *NO WAY!* I WAS FASTER! I JUST KNOW!

I GOT HOME FIRST! I WIN, *HAHA!*

SHREEE

?!!

HUH?! WHAT?! DON'T LEAVE ME OUT LIKE THIS!

TELL ME! TELL ME! TELL—

RATTLE

BAP

I THOUGHT THEY WOULDN'T BE HOME UNTIL LATER...?!

WHAT THE...?!

HEY! DID YOU ALREADY FORGET?!
WE HAVE VISITORS TODAY! STOP RUNNING AHEAD!
OH, RIGHT! BIG BRO'S FRIENDS WERE SUPPOSED TO COME OVER!
AND LOOK AT ALL THESE SHOES!
THMP
THMP
THMP
HEY! I TOLD YOU TO WAIT!
LET ME CHECK UP ON THEM...
KCHAK
BIG BRO! WE'RE HOME!
WHA ...?!
ZOOM
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
HEEEY! BIG BRO'S FRIENDS!
AND THERE ARE SOME PRETTY LADIES, TOO!
YO, ENERGETIC AS ALWAYS, I SEE.
STOMP
COULD THESE TWO BE...?
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
I SWEAR...!
GRAB
THAT'S ENOUGH FROM THE TWO OF YOU!

DIDN'T MEAN FOR THINGS TO GET SO CHAOTIC...

SORRY, YOU GUYS...

TWINS...!!!

HELLOOO!

C'MON YOU TWO! SAY HELLO TO OUR GUESTS!

Chapter 133: Older Brother Usami

YOUR HAIR LOOKS SO FLUFFY!

OH, THANK YOU!

I WONDER IF I CAN HAVE MINE LOOK LIKE THAT, TOO?

RINTAROOO! YOUR HAIR'S DIFFERENT! SO COOL!

Did you stop dying it?!

SUP, SURE DID.

I'M SO INCREDIBLY SORRY ABOUT THE KIDS!

OH GOSH...

I MEAN, WE SHOULD THANK YOU FOR LETTING US GATHER HERE.

OH, IT'S PERFECTLY FINE!

BUT THEY JUST WOULDN'T TAKE A NO!

SO THAT THEY WOULDN'T DISTRACT YOU FROM STUDYING.

I KEPT TELLING THEM THAT WE COULDN'T GO BACK TO GRAB SOMETHING THEY FORGOT...

PLEASE HAVE SOME AFTER YOU'RE DONE STUDYING.

USAMI'S MOTHER

From the nearby super-market!

SO I BOUGHT SOME ICE CREAM AS AN APOLOGY AHEAD OF TIME!

I HAD A FEELING THEY WOULD CAUSE A RUCKUS AS SOON AS WE GOT BACK...

I'm so sorry...

Oh, I really messed up...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!

THAT'S RIGHT! THEY'D ALWAYS TAKE IT WITH THEM TO THE CHILDREN'S CENTER, AFTER ALL.

WAIT A SECOND...?

THAT THING THEY FORGOT... COULD IT BE THEIR GAME CONSOLE?

What?!

That's why I kept asking if you forgot anything!

We forgot our console at home!

I wanna play games!

Why do you only ever realize as soon as we're out of the house?!

AND I THOUGHT WE'D HAVE MY PLACE TO OUR-SELVES...

AFTER ALL, DAD'S STILL WORKING, AND YOU SAID YOU'D TAKE THE LITTLE ONES OUT TO GO SHOPPING...

AND WE'RE HOME NOW, SO GRAB IT, YOU HEAR?!

MAI!

SORA!

WHAAAT?!

IN MY ROOM!

WHERE'D YOU LEAVE IT?

GUESS I'LL HAVE TO GO AND GRAB IT THEN...

AND I STILL HAVE TO HEAR MORE LOVE STORIES FROM THE GIRLS!

BUT I WANNA HANG OUT WITH RIN-TARO AND THE OTHERS SOME MORE!

DON'T BE SELFISH NOW!

Also, I love stories at your age?!

DMP

How dare you call a girl heavy!

You're pretty heavy, you know?!

DMP

SO HE'S THE TYPE OF OLDER BROTHER WHO CAN'T WIN AGAINST HIS SIBLINGS.

NOW COLOR ME SURPRISED...

TIGHT

CARRY US UP THERE, BIG BRO!

PLEASE WALK YOURSELVES?!

HOLD!!

EVEN COMPARED IT TO A ROLLER-COASTER RIDE.

WEREN'T THEY TAKING A RIDE ON YOUR SHOULDERS THEN, RINTARO?

BACK IN OUR FIRST YEAR WHEN WE CAME OVER TO VISIT, IT WENT ALMOST EXACTLY LIKE TODAY, TOO.

...

I SHOULD'VE REALLY CLEANED UP MORE BEFORE TODAY...

I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO BRING OVER A GROUP OF GIRLS, TOO...!

Makes sense considering how tall you are

HAVE YOU ALREADY DECIDED WHAT TO DO AFTER YOU GRADUATE?

YOU ARE ALL IN THE SAME YEAR, RIGHT?

YES, OF COURSE.

UM...

COULD I HAVE A MOMENT?

AS FOR MYSELF, I'M JUST GOING WITH THE FLOW AND ATTEND A UNIVERSITY I FIND FITTING!

WE'VE GOT PEOPLE WHO ALREADY HAVE SOLID PLANS.

SAME HERE.

WELL... TO SOME DEGREE, YEAH.

MAYBE HE'S GOT SOME SORT OF IDEA, TOO?

DID SHOHEI SAY ANYTHING BY ANY CHANCE?

I SEE...

IS THAT... SO...

...BUT HE HIMSELF SAID HE DOESN'T HAVE A CLEAR IMAGE IN MIND YET.

UM, NO...

WE WERE ACTUALLY JUST TALKING ABOUT THAT...

...!

HAVING A CLEAR GOAL IN MIND AT YOUR AGE IS NOT SOMETHING ANYBODY CAN BRAG ABOUT!

STILL, YOU LOT ARE SOMETHING ELSE.

WE HAVE PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS DURING SUMMER BREAK, TOO!

JUST WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT THAT BOY?

...BY SO MANY AMAZING FOLKS!!

I'M SURROUNDED...

HEEEE-EEEEEY!!!

ACTUALLY...

...

WHICH MEANS THAT I ALSO GET TO PLAY FIRST!

AND I GOT MY HANDS ON IT BEFORE YOU!

BIG BRO GAVE IT TO ME! NOT YOU!

REMEMBER HOW HE TRIPPED WITH THE CONSOLE IN HIS HAND THE OTHER DAY? ALMOST ENDED UP BREAKING IT, SO I'D RATHER NOT RISK IT AGAIN.

WELL, THAT DIDN'T WORK OUT... I GAVE THE CONSOLE TO MAI, BUT HE JUST SNATCHED IT OUT OF HER HANDS.

DAM DAM DAM

HEY! I'VE ABOUT HAD IT WITH YOU TWO!

CAN'T THEY JUST TAKE TURNS...? I SWEAR...

KRAK

KRAK

THOUGH WITH THE WAY THEY'RE ACTING RIGHT NOW, IT'S LOOKING BAD FOR THE CONSOLE NO MATTER WHO'S HOLDING ON TO IT...

GRAB

BLEEEH

STUPID SORA!

FWUSH

...!

FYA

WAP

AH...!

GASP

...HUH?

NICE CATCH...!

GOT ME SWEATING OVER HERE...

Ha ha...

IT'S OKAY! I'M FINE!

THANKS FOR THE SAVE, RINTARO-KUN.

Ha ha ha...

OH GOSH, I'M SO SORRY ABOUT THAT, WAGURI-SAN!

MAI! WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?!

!!

MAI.

...

...!

...SHE WOULD FEEL RIGHT NOW?

HOW DO YOU THINK...

IF THAT BALL HAD HIT WAGURI-SAN...

...

EXACT-LY.

...AND SHE WOULD'VE BEEN SAD...?

IT WOULD'VE HURT HER...

...IT'S CLEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO, RIGHT?

AND SINCE YOU KNOW THAT NOW...

BOW

I'M REALLY SORRY...!

GRIP

!

HUH?

YEAH ...

FWIP

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!

JUST BE MORE CAREFUL NEXT TIME, YEAH?

ISN'T THERE SOME-THING...

...YOU SHOULD SAY TO MAI RIGHT NOW?

!!

GOOD. NEXT, SORA.

...

SORRY...

I SHOULDN'T HAVE SNATCHED IT FROM YOU.

IT'S FINE.

...

OH, IT'S OKAY! THANKS FOR YOUR CONCERN, THOUGH!

REALLY SORRY ABOUT THAT, WAGURI-SAN!

...GREAT!

GR

LAB

AND GOOD JOB YOU TWO FOR BEING ABLE TO APOLOGIZE!

AS A REWARD, I'M GONNA LET YOU FIGHT ME IN A GAME OF YOUR CHOICE ONCE!

...

BUT YOU SUCK AT ANY GAME WE PLAY, SO YOU'LL LOSE ON THE SPOT!

OH, HOW DARE YOU!

I'M PERFECTLY FINE!

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT HURT?

SORRY ABOUT THOSE TWO.

...WE WERE ACTUALLY TALKING ABOUT OUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

BEFORE THE THREE OF YOU CAME BACK...

...

YOU SEE...

THAT'S WHAT HE CALLED US.

...BY SO MANY AMAZING FOLKS!!

I REALLY ADMIRE ALL OF YOU GUYS FOR FINDING SOMETHING YOU WANNA DO!

And I d have to apply for a job real soon, too!

GO TO UNIVERSITY? LOOK FOR A JOB?

MEANWHILE, I DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO.

I'M SURROUND-ED...

TALKING ABOUT HOW HE'S SURROUNDED BY "AMAZING FOLKS."

AS IT TURNS OUT, USAMI'S STARTING TO PANIC A BIT HIMSELF.

...HAD THE EXACT SAME THOUGHT AT THAT MOMENT.

I THINK WE ALL...

BUT, FUNNY ENOUGH...

OUT OF ALL OF US...

...THE ONE WHO'S MOST AMAZING...

...ABSOLUTELY HAS TO BE USAMI.

YUP! CAN'T AGREE MORE!

Ha ha ha!

WE'RE ALL THE SAME IN THAT REGARD, HUH?

Right, Saku-kun?

I WAS THINKING THAT, TOO.

...SHOWS HOW MUCH CLOSER WE'VE GOTTEN SINCE WE FIRST MET...

GRANTED, THE FACT THAT WE CAN SIT TOGETHER LIKE THIS...

BUT IN REALITY...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF THAT ONE BIT

WE'LL HELP YOU OUT. NO QUESTIONS ASKED!

I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER WHO YOU WERE BACK THEN.

LET'S ALL GET ALONG.

FROM NOW ON, YEAH!

HE'S LIKE THE GLUE THAT KEPT US TOGETHER IN THE FIRST PLACE.

...THAT WAS ALL THANKS TO USAMI-KUN.

TRUE, TRUE!

HE JUST MANAGES TO CHEER UP THE ROOM SIMPLY BY BEING HIMSELF, RIGHT?

HE'S ALWAYS HONEST, ALWAYS GENUINE, AND DOESN'T DARE TO TELL A LIE. HE TAKES THAT FIRST IMPORTANT STEP...

...AND PULLS THE REST OF US ALONG WITH HIM.

...HOW FRIGGIN' COOL...

...RINTARO REALLY IS!

REALLY?

Y'KNOW

I JUST DON'T LIKE THAT PEOPLE GOTTA DOUBT YOU LIKE THIS.

I WANT YOU...

...TO TELL IT TO US STRAIGHT.

THEN I GUESS THE OTHER GUYS...

COMPLETELY MISSED WHAT THEY'D BE GETTING.

YEAH, THEY'RE RIGHT.

HE'S HELPED ME COUNTLESS TIMES SO FAR.

GRRR...

YOU AGREE, RIGHT? SAKU-KUN?

HE ALWAYS MANAGES TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER.

NO MATTER THE SITUATION HE'S IN...

JUST HOW INCREDIBLE HE IS.

WE ALL KNOW...

...BUT I BELIEVE THAT, NO MATTER WHICH PATH HE MIGHT CHOOSE...

OF COURSE, WE CAN'T SAY SO WITH ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY...

THAT'S THE KIND OF GUY HE IS.

HE'S GOING TO ABSOLUTELY CRUSH IT AND FIND HIS OWN SUCCESS.

HE'S JUST GETTING READY FOR WHEN HE FINDS SOMETHING HE WANTS TO PURSUE.

AND I KNOW IT DOESN'T SOUND VERY REASSURING COMING FROM THE PEOPLE WHO ALREADY HAVE SOMEWHAT OF A CLEAR PATH IN MIND...

BUT I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY REASON TO START PANICKING JUST YET.

HOW INSANELY COOL YOU ARE, ACTUALLY.

HUH?! ME?!

!

YO, WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?

SNICKER

WH- WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU GUYS?!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE SUCH AN EFFORT JUST BECAUSE MY MOM'S WATCHING!

MAYBE WE SHOULD ALL SAY SOME-THING WE LIKE ABOUT HIM?

WE ALL FEEL THE SAME WAY, YUP!

WE COULD TAKE TURNS.

THERE'S OUR GUY!

You're always cheerful! And honest about how you feel!

...!

...

Mhm...

!

YANK

WELL!

...THEN I GUESS IT MUST BE TRUE!

IF YOU GUYS ARE SAYING THAT...

HA HA HA!

THANKS, YOU TWO!

WE LOVE YOU TOO, BIG BRO!

ACTUALLY...

I'M STILL NOT FULLY DEVOTED TO T-UNIVERSITY YET. THOUGH I'M DEFINITELY GONNA TAKE THE ACADEMIC ROUTE.

...